

Vermont Secondary College
'Lift up Thine Eyes'

**INFORMATION
BOOKLET FOR
PROSPECTIVE
STUDENTS**

Excellence * Integrity * Responsibility * Respect * Tolerance

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VERMONT SECONDARY COLLEGE STRATEGIC PLAN (2009 – 2012) RATIONALE FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS

In 2008 Vermont Secondary College undertook a Negotiated School Review which was based on our School Self-Evaluation (for the period 2005-2007). These two major reviews set the framework for the college's future directions as set out in this Strategic Plan. From these reviews the following directions were clearly identified:

- Improving the stimulating learning and teaching environment.
- Developing a holistic, comprehensive, systematic and integrated Years 7-12 student Pathways and Wellbeing program.

PURPOSE

- To promote the achievement of excellence in a learning environment that is safe, caring and accepting of diversity.
- The college is committed to the development of lifelong learning skills that motivate and enable all students to achieve their individual goals and make a positive contribution to the global community.

The Strategic Plan sets the direction of the College for the next 4 years (2009 – 2012) taking into account a dynamic and evolving development process that ensures our vision and values reflect and respond to our learning community. An essential ingredient of the Strategic Plan is the College Vision and Values.

COLLEGE VISION:

- Valuing all students
- Academic excellence
- Excellence in all College programs
- Teachers committed to personal and professional growth
- Strong community focus
- Individualised facilities to cater for innovation

COLLEGE VALUES:

Excellence - In the achievement of individual and team goals

Integrity - Of individuals in their words, actions and relationships

Responsibility - For our words and action

Respect - For self, others and property

Tolerance - Of diversity and individual differences

The vision and values form the foundation of the college ethos and will be embraced over the next four years through the ongoing development and implementation of the Strategic Plan. I thank all members of the college community who were involved in the development of the Strategic Plan and we look forward to its implementation over the next four years. A full copy of the Strategic Plan can be found on our college website.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Vermont Secondary College places strong emphasis on knowing our students and enriching their personal learning experiences. The College has a strong focus on the holistic development of individual students through involvement in a rich academic and co-curricular program. Learning is valued as a life-long process that fosters self-improvement and personal fulfillment.

In a caring, well-disciplined atmosphere, the college expects and achieves high standards in all aspects of student endeavour, behaviour and presentation. Our College values Excellence, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect and Tolerance and they are consistently reinforced in student learning, teaching practice and school management.

The College is proud of its proven record of academic achievement. The College is consistently ranked amongst the top state secondary colleges based on its VCE and NAPLAN test results. These results are significantly above State and 'Like School' levels of performance.

Each year over 90% of our Year 12 students are offered tertiary places, with a significant proportion gaining entry into university courses with high entry cut-off scores. The college prepares students for an increasingly diverse range of student career pathways and is a member of the Mullum VET cluster. Our college aims to prepare students for life in a global community where they are able to contribute as citizens, leaders and family members.

The College makes a feature of encouraging, recognising and celebrating outstanding performance of students academically and in the areas of leadership and co-curricular participation. The College's comprehensive range of co-curricular activities, including our acclaimed instrumental music, choral and performing arts program supports the growth of students into confident, successful and contributing citizens. The College is a premier sporting school with many students competing at a local, state and national level.

Our transition program ensures that new students to the College feel welcome, comfortable and secure. In 2010 Vermont Secondary College will have a brand new, purpose built Year 7 Learning centre. This combined with the Year 7 Integrated Studies program will contribute significantly to a smooth, safe start to secondary school.

Vermont Secondary College views education as a partnership and values the support and participation of parents in a wide range of college activities and decision making groups. The educational needs of children are best served in an environment where parents feel part of the College community.

Vermont Secondary College is an excellent school with a strong tradition of achievement, innovation and community involvement.



Tony Jacobs
Principal

VSC ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT A GLANCE

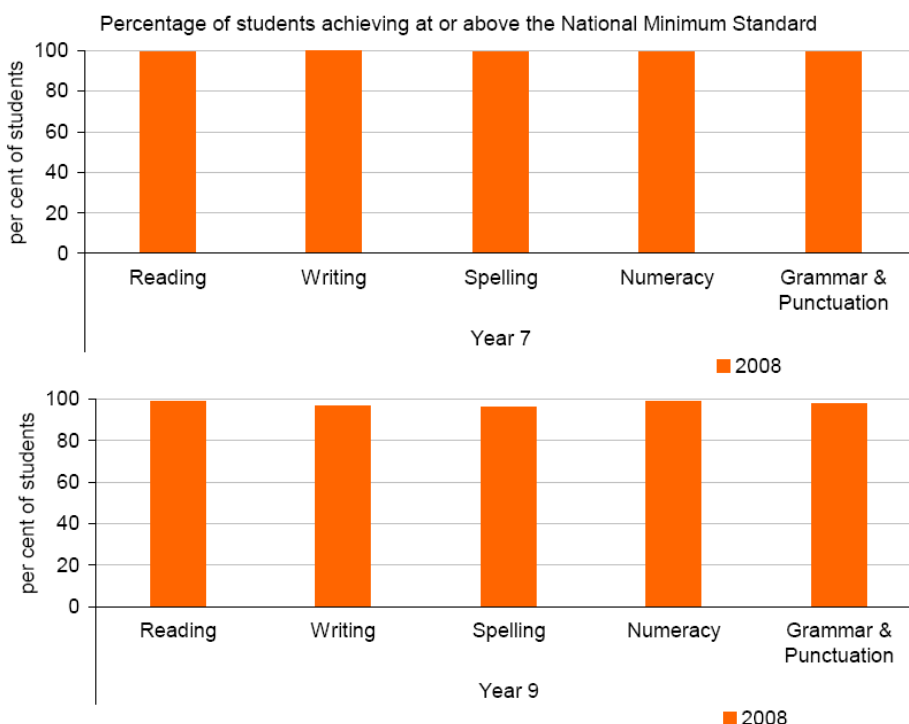
Our 2008 Year 12 results again placed us amongst the top rating government schools in the state. We are immensely proud of our VCE academic record in 2008 with an outstanding 48 students achieving ENTER scores over 90 and seven students with scores of 99+. Special congratulations go to Mun Yee Siow our Dux for 2008 with a study score of 99.7. The following table gives the college community a snapshot of the student's impressive 2008 VCE results -

No. of Students	Range	% of 196 Year 12 VSC Students	2008 State-wide Placement - Top
7	99+	3.5%	1%
24	95+	12%	5%
48	90+	24%	10%
84	80+	42%	20%
107	70+	54%	30%
135	60+	68%	40%
157	50+	78%	50%

While we are very proud of our top performing students we are equally proud of the students who achieved individual excellence by achieving their goals, in several cases against the odds. These students can be justly pleased with their performance and hopefully further opportunities will now be available to them to pursue their hopes and dreams.

Congratulations to all VCE students and their families, the senior school leadership team and all our Year 12 teachers, on this excellent performance. It is also important to thank all staff within the college who have been involved in the teaching and development of the class of 2008. Well done to ALL involved over the six years the students were at the college. Our 2008 Year 12 students can be extremely pleased with their performances.

VSC Results	VSC mean 2002	VSC mean 2003	VSC mean 2004	VSC mean 2005	VSC mean 2006	VSC mean 2007	VSC mean 2008
Y12 VCE median score	32.9	32.4	31.3	32.5	32.0	30.4	32.7
% VCE satisfactory completions	N/A	N/A	94.0	99.0	99.0	96.0	98.0
% Y12 VET satisfactory completions	97.7	96.0	65.9	98.2	98.7	90.80	100



**VSC
Year 7 & 9 - 2008
NAPLAN Results**

STUDENT CODE OF PRACTICE

The students at Vermont Secondary College are required to work within the provisions of the current Education Act and related regulations, DEECD and school policies. This code also acknowledges the Equal Opportunity Act (Vic) 1995 and the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001, which supports racial and religious tolerance and prohibits vilification on the ground of race or religion. **In addition students are also expected to observe the following values and behaviours in their conduct:**

VALUES	BEHAVIOURS
<p>Excellence In the achievement of individual and team goals.</p> <p><i>This means:</i> We have high but realistic expectations of everyone in this college.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We consistently reinforce high expectations and the core values of the college ➤ We consistently strive to achieve the best possible outcomes ➤ We are open to innovative, engaging and challenging educational practices ➤ We encourage leadership and initiative ➤ We celebrate the efforts and successes of our peers and the college community ➤ We celebrate our individual successes ➤ We strive to develop an understanding of our strengths, learning styles & capabilities ➤ We support each other in the pursuit of excellence
<p>Integrity Of individuals in their words, actions and relationships.</p> <p><i>This means:</i> We are true to ourselves and others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We stand up for what we believe in, in a fair and open manner ➤ We encourage and demonstrate honesty ➤ We are sincere in our words and actions ➤ We act at all times in an ethical manner ➤ We are positive and constructive in our dealings with other people
<p>Respect For self, others and property.</p> <p><i>This means:</i> We appreciate the worth and sanctity of self, others and property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We treat all people with respect and acknowledge their right to express differing views ➤ We are sensitive to the impact of our words and actions on others ➤ We show consideration for the feelings of others ➤ We respect the property of others including all college facilities ➤ We acknowledge and appreciate individual differences, strengths and skills ➤ We act with discretion and tact in our interpersonal relations ➤ We treat all members of our college community equitably, justly and courteously ➤ We value the role of others in our college, and the wider community
<p>Tolerance Of diversity and individual differences.</p> <p><i>This means:</i> We are accepting of individual and cultural differences and the diversity of our community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We treat all people equally ➤ We challenge intolerance ➤ We are positive role models for our peers in exemplifying tolerance ➤ We are encouraging and supportive of all people in the achievement of their goals ➤ We are accepting of individual differences in our college community ➤ We ensure that our peers and staff are free from harassment
<p>Responsibility For our words and actions.</p> <p><i>This means:</i> We are accountable for our words and actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We accept the consequences of our behaviour ➤ We take responsibility for our personal development ➤ We participate in, and contribute constructively to, decision making in our college ➤ We share ideas ➤ We are reflective on our thoughts and actions ➤ We are committed to continual improvement of our knowledge and learning methods ➤ We demonstrate resourcefulness and are prepared to take risks where appropriate ➤ We are proactive and responsive to issues that require our consideration ➤ We actively promote and apply safe work practices

YEAR 7 SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAM

At Vermont, the Year Seven Co-ordinators and teachers are fully committed to ensuring the transition from primary to secondary school is a positive experience for students and parents.

We are conscious that many students are entering a Year Seven group that has the same total population as their primary school, and they may find it daunting in the initial stages. Accordingly we take special care when placing students, and with the help of the Year Seven and particularly Integrated Studies teachers, they achieve a happy and smooth start to secondary school.

Integrated Studies is one of the most important elements of the Year Seven program at VSC. Students are allocated a form teacher who takes them for nine periods a week. This ensures they can identify with one teacher for a large part of their week. The subjects in Integrated Studies include English, History, Geography, I.T. and Economics. These subjects are integrated, not taught as separate disciplines, and they reflect the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).

This high amount of time with one teacher, often in the same room (they are regularly timetabled in the same room for I.S. and Maths) is given to ease the transition process for students.

As well as the subject focus of I.S., there is considerable time given to the "Vermont Values". This is a program that aims to motivate students to produce the best possible work they can, and focusing on working together to achieve better results. This program does not stop at the end of Year 7, rather it continues on for the whole of their schooling career.

To further assist in transition, there is a Year 7 area. This is a newly refurbished area with a designated room and separate locker bay for each form. There is a central learning area which is a flexible space with exemplary interactive technologies. The Year 7 area also consists of offices for the Year Level Co-ordinators and Year 7 Staff, toilets and a play area for the exclusive use of Year 7 students. It is immediately adjacent to the new Resource centre and Flexible Learning Centre. Since this is an area only open to Year 7, it provides students with a safe place to interact and become familiar with the school, without being overwhelmed by the other year levels.

A transition camp is held for ALL Year 7 students early in Term 1; this enables students to develop friendships and interact with their Year 7 teachers, and other senior teachers, in a more open setting. Similarly, they are able to see the worth of the Vermont Values. These are further reinforced when the students come back to school.

A group of senior students are available for peer support, especially during the first part of the year, working in class with the students. (These are the same students that were involved on Orientation Day). Activities and homework support for Year 7s will be conducted by the Peer Leaders who also attend the Year 7 camp.

The school has developed a wide range of support strategies that are designed to overcome any personal or social problems that may arise. The Year 7 Co-ordinators, Integrated Studies teachers, Student Well-being and Integration Coordinators and caring Year 7 staff are there to foster and encourage the Year 7 students, and students are more than welcome to talk to any of these staff members. The school welcomes and encourages parental involvement and early contact if problems do arise. An opportunity for parents to meet Year 7 staff and other parents occurs in Term 1 at the Year 7 Barbecue.

TRANSITION TIMETABLE FOR PARENTS

- College tours commence late in Term One and continue until Open Evening in May.
- In early Term 2 the Year 7 Transition Team visits the major feeder primary schools to explain the school program and to deal with any questions and concerns of prospective students.
- During Term 2 the Parent Information Evening is held in conjunction with the VSC Open Evening.
- During Term 3 Grade 6 students attend a performance of the College production.
- In Term 4, Year 5 students from our cluster schools attend the college for a curriculum activities day.

- The Student Well-being Co-ordinators, Literacy Co-ordinator and/or Integration Co-ordinator contact and/or visit the primary schools in November and discuss student progress with Grade 6 teachers and Co-ordinators. Student placement is also discussed with the Grade 6 teachers. Relevant information is then shared with all teaching staff.
- A Parent Information Evening is held prior to the Orientation Day so that parents can be introduced to key personnel at VSC, find out about the curriculum and organisational structures of the school, and ask questions about school policies and procedures.
- In early December, Orientation Day is held. Students are placed in their forms and work with their Integrated Studies (English & Humanities) teachers. Students will bring their completed "Passport to Vermont Secondary College" and will be given a "How To Survive Year 7" handbook. Camp forms are also collected on this day. Current Year 7 form captains and selected senior students spend the day with the new students.

APPLICATION PROCESS

DEECD/EMR application forms are distributed through primary schools early Term 2 and completed applications are returned to the primary school mid Term 2 (15th May 2009). These are then forwarded to the relevant 'first choice' secondary college. Students will be enrolled in the following priority order:

- Students for whom the college is the designated neighbourhood school - our college is your neighbourhood school if it is the nearest state government secondary college to your permanent residential address - 'as the crow flies'. (submit DEECD/EMR form only)
- Students with a sibling who will be concurrently attending the college and who resides at the same address. (submit DEECD/EMR form only)
- Students seeking enrolment on specific curriculum grounds. (submit DEECD/EMR and VSC forms)
- Students in order of closeness of their home to the school. (submit DEECD/EMR and VSC forms)

In a limited number of cases only, students may be enrolled on compassionate grounds where there are significant or individual circumstances. This is at the discretion of the college principal.

Students applying for our 'Learning Extension & Enrichment Program' (LEEP) must complete an additional application form – contact the college for more information.

All applicants from outside our neighbourhood (and who do not have a 'sibling claim') must complete the separate 'VSC Consideration for Year 7 entry in 2010' form (available from the college).

Curriculum grounds are considered first and foremost. It is suggested that parents attach supporting information related to curriculum to their application. Only after those processed in terms of curriculum are considered, will those who have only listed distance from the school be considered.

Demand for entry to Vermont Secondary College is extremely high. If our college is listed as a second choice on the application form, communication will not occur until neighbourhood, sibling claims and first choice applications are processed. Those who will be offered a place at the college will be notified by their primary school late in Term 3, as well as those who were unsuccessful. These students will be considered for any vacancies that may arise prior to the end of the year.

**ALL YEAR 7 ENROLMENT INFORMATION & APPLICATIONS
ARE HANDLED BY THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

GENERAL INFORMATION

ALL VISITORS TO THE COLLEGE MUST REPORT TO THE GENERAL OFFICE TO SIGN IN AND OBTAIN A VISITOR'S PASS.

OFFICE HOURS: 8:00am to 4:30pm – Monday to Thursday, 8:00am to 4:00pm – Friday

VSC STAFF

Teachers at Vermont Secondary College are committed to providing the best education for their students. Our desire as a group of professionals is to provide classrooms that: have a stimulating atmosphere; are thought provoking; and, importantly, are accepting and nurturing of all students. We believe this is so important that the professional development focus of the school is centred on improving a teacher's capacity to deliver a stimulating curriculum. One of the key strategies that we are employing is the creation of Professional Learning Partners. These partnerships allow teachers to explore, research and develop innovative teaching strategies. This reflects our school's commitment to ongoing learning. All staff, both teachers and support staff, are involved in this process, as part of the college's 'Performance and Development Culture'.

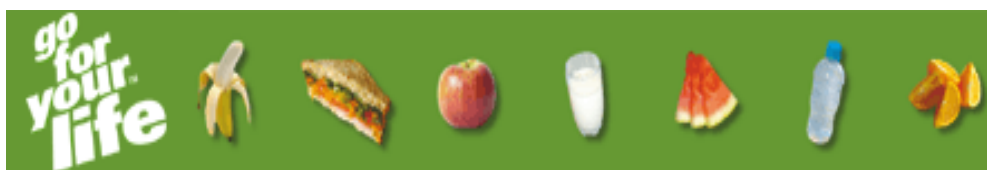
COLLEGE UNIFORM

One of the conditions of enrolment at Vermont Secondary College is that all students must present neatly in full school uniform. The uniform must be worn to and from school. Clothing should be clearly marked with the owner's name. For students with pierced ears, plain gold or silver sleepers or studs only will be accepted. Excessive, blatantly obvious or perceived dangerous jewellery is not permitted. Obvious make-up and coloured nail polish should not be worn to school. Hair should be kept tidy and away from the face and should not be extreme in style or colour. Long hair should be tied back where appropriate for safety reasons. VCE students are given the option to wear a Year 12 Jacket. The college uniform policy is rigidly enforced across all year levels.

We are currently investigating more Sunsmart options.

CANTEEN

Vermont Secondary College endorses and supports healthy eating practices and regards the health of students as a priority – we have applied the Healthy Eating guidelines for some years now, and have employed a chef to prepare fresh meals on site. This allows us to offer and promote a variety of nutritious foods and drinks at very reasonable prices, and thus encourages students to make healthy food choices. As the canteen is owned and run by the college, all profits are utilized by the college for improvements to the facilities, equipment and environment which students enjoy daily. Parent participation (mums, dads and grandparents!) is crucial. The Canteen is open before school (for orders), at **Recess** and **Lunchtime**.



SICK BAY

Vermont Secondary College operates a Sick Bay staffed by two fully qualified First Aid Attendants. The First Aid Attendants are on duty between 8:40 am and 3:20pm during school times. The First Aid attendants are also present at any 'all college' activity (i.e. athletics day, swimming sports, etc). They support college staff in implementing appropriate policies and procedures, and actively monitor and support students with a range of conditions, like diabetes and anaphylaxis.

Students who are ill report to the Sick Bay. Arrangements are then be made with parents depending upon the nature of the illness. Sick Bay is located opposite the General Office.

LIBRARY

Our Library - Resource Centre is one of the thriving hubs of the College; we are open between 8:30am and 4:00pm each day and regularly see over 2500 students and staff through our doors each week. During 2009 we will be relocating to our new multi-million dollar Resource Centre complex which will allow us to expand our 45,000 strong book collection which features a broad range of fiction and non-fiction in contemporary and classic subject areas. Most loans are for two weeks. The Library's catalogue is accessible via the Internet through the school's Moodle site, by clicking Library and then Catalogue. Student borrowing cards are issued in Years 7, 9 and 11 for two years.

Regular Year 7 and 8 classes are conducted in our Library classrooms and participate in our Library orientation and study skills program. Our Junior students are all involved in the Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge and our "Champion Readers" regularly receive state awards.

Our ICT resources are rapidly expanding. We have installed an electronic Smart board in our classroom. A range of digital video and still cameras and sound recording equipment is available for student use as well as scanners, laptops, card readers, printers and copiers and the like.

As an integral element of Vermont Secondary College academic life, the library provides a diverse range of extra-curricular activities to enhance students' deeper learning and knowledge base. These include: "Monday Study Club" where the full range of library resources and teaching staff are available to assist students with homework and assignments.

Junior and Senior Book club students participate in regular pod and vodcasting activities, literature discussions, student book selection, writing workshops, book buying and "Melbourne Writers festival" excursions and school based online fiction competitions. Senior club members have been invited to attend the August Melbourne filming of the ABC's "First Tuesday Book Club" Legends in their own lunchtime "rock concerts" run in conjunction with our music dept.

Author visits by leading Australian authors such as Archie Fusillo, John Marsden, David Metzenthen, Steven Herrick, Phillip Gwynne and Brian Nankervis, amongst others.

We regularly run lunchtime Science experiments, Numeracy, Maths, Art, History, Lote, Literature and English games, quizzes, competitions and themed lunchtime films and documentaries.

STUDENT WELL-BEING CO-ORDINATORS

The Student Wellbeing Coordinators (SWCs) are members of the teaching staff who have undertaken extra training in the areas of wellbeing and welfare of students. At VSC we are fortunate to have an educational psychologist, a social worker and a speech pathologist as part of the SWC Team, and we have excellent contacts with many community agencies that help families. Both parents and students are welcome to make contact with the SWC if there are any concerns related to either school or home, including extreme financial difficulties (e.g. acquiring books and uniform). Each year the Team offers interesting, interactive programs to enrich and support students to fulfil their potential. These programs are designed and implemented according to each year's needs and usually include the expertise of community agencies. If you have any exciting ideas or suggestions in this regard, please contact us.

DISABILITIES AND IMPAIRMENTS PROGRAM

The Integration Support Program (Disabilities and Impairments Program) provides a range of resources to students who have formally recognised or specific difficulties in performing in the mainstream classroom. Students who benefit from integration support can present with a range of difficulties including: language disorders, autism spectrum disorders, behavioural and psychological issues as well as physical disabilities. The program offers ongoing support to students by well informed and caring teaching and non teaching staff. Students also have access to additional assistance when appropriate, a modified curriculum when necessary and ongoing communication between the school and the home.

Parents of children who are part of the Disabilities and Impairments Program at primary school are asked to make early contact with our Integration Support Co-ordinator.

STUDENTS FROM LANGUAGE BACKGROUNDS OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Our College provides a very caring environment for students from language backgrounds other than English. The philosophy underpinning our English as a Second Language (ESL) policy is that it is essential that these learners feel they are valued members of the school community and that their language and cultural backgrounds are important. The ESL programme ranges from a team teaching approach within the mainstream classroom, to direct teaching by an ESL trained teacher. It is a programme that targets the needs of individual students to assist them in the development of their English language skills.



STUDENT PATHWAYS

At Vermont Secondary College quality careers guidance, counseling, and pathways planning are important elements in students' engagement and promoting lifelong learning. Pathways planning is organised through the Managed Individual pathways (MIPS) Scheme which offers all students from year nine to twelve individual assistance to develop pathways plans. Careers education forms an important part of timetabled careers education programs from seven through to Year twelve.

At Vermont, we have a well resourced, regularly updated and easily accessible careers centre which students & parents can use on a daily basis. The careers centre is run by the Director of Pathways and the Careers Coordinator who are available for individual student & family appointments. We offer programs that are challenging and stimulating to equip students with the tools to make a successful transition into each year level and beyond Secondary School. This is enhanced by Parent Information nights, industry liaison and community involvement.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Vermont Secondary College has a very active Student Representative Council (SRC) comprising elected students from all Year Levels, who work under the careful guidance of the SRC coordinator. Students from Vermont Secondary College are involved in school decision making through the Student Representative Council (SRC) and their membership on School Council and its Sub-committees.

The SRC also hosts various fund raising activities during the year engaging many students in free dress days, theme days, red nose day, etc. Each year the SRC donate significantly to different charity organizations as a result of these activities.

YEAR 7 LEARNING EXTENSION AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (LEEP)

This is a new exciting program for Vermont Secondary College. We have a rich history of academic success which encourages and celebrates student's differing talents and abilities. Students have the opportunity to be a part of a select entry high achievers' class that will undertake a challenging academic program specifically designed to meet the needs of high achieving students.

This is not an acceleration program, rather it allows students to progress with their school age peers, whilst undertaking a challenging curriculum that enriches and extends them in a variety of areas, especially in Maths, Science and Integrated Studies (English/Geography/History/Economics).

Students in the Program join fully in the life of the college. They may be found together with other VSC students – playing in the school concert, competing in athletics, performing in the school production. The college offers rich music, arts and sporting programs and is also noted for its strength in English, Mathematics, Science and Languages.

The LEEP program will operate as one class of Year 7 students in 2010 that will continue into Year 8, then Year 9 in subsequent years, dependent on the student's continued high achieving academic performance. Students will follow the same core curriculum structure as all other students. In Year 10 students will have access to a wide range of VCE subjects and challenging electives.

Only students who are in Grade 6 can apply for the LEEP program and will be required to sit a general selection test held at the college. These results together with their Grade 5 semester 2 report and NAPLAN data will be considered. Students may be asked for further evidence to support their application.

THE ARTS AT VERMONT SC

The Arts at Vermont provide students with a creative outlet and the ability to express themselves and their developing ideas. As a result a number of our students have taken up professional positions in the Arts.

In a world where employers are increasingly seeking people that are innovative, creative with the ability to problem solve and communicate effectively, the Arts has much to offer in schools.

Arts at Vermont spans across all forms: Visual, Performing and Materials Technology. Students in Visual Art experience ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, painting and drawing to name a few. Visual Communication and Design, Design Technology and Textiles present students with the opportunity to design and produce products of their own and explore the developmental process. These classes are all run in our new Arts wing, with purpose built classrooms for each subject that provide students with excellent facilities to create their works.

In previous years Vermont has had VCE students in 'Top Designs' (Materials Technology) and in 'Top Class' (Drama) and 'Top Arts' (Studio Art). These 'Top' events are a celebration of the highest achieving Arts students in the state (against private schools), to be precise the top 1-10 percent.

This year the Arts team has developed a number of new Arts options at Year Ten enabling students much greater variety and a more innovative curriculum. We hope that over the coming years students will embrace these changes and flourish as a result.

The Performing Arts options at Vermont are abundant. Drama and classroom music are offered to students from Yr 7-12 and Theatre Studies at Yr12, classes run in the college's purpose built Theatre/Music Centre. The college will soon be building a 'Multimedia Centre' that will also act as another performance space.

The college Production is an annual event that attracts up-to 100 students. The students are responsible for every aspect of the production from the band to backstage, lighting and sound. Double casting gives more students a chance at experiencing a larger role and an extended season of performances. Broadway musicals such as 'The Pajama Game', 'How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying' and 'Annie' have been very popular with the students and college community. Staff, students and parents come together to help build sets, make costumes and collectively work as a team to realise each year's show.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Vermont Secondary College is fortunate to be able to offer tuition on a variety of band and orchestra instruments, guitar, singing and piano (beginners). VCE Music Performance Units 1, 2, 3 & 4 are offered for senior students. Students taking music lessons not only receive instruction on their chosen instruments, but also enjoy the benefits of participating in an organised music program including performance in musical groups such as the Concert Band, Orchestra and Choir.

All students taking music lessons at the college are required to sing or play in one of the college ensembles. These include the Junior Band (for beginning woodwind and brass students), Concert Band, Stage Band, String Orchestra, Flute Ensemble, Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and the Rock/Pop Workshop.

The cost of taking lessons at the school is substantially less than is usually experienced by students taking lessons privately. Students participating in the instrumental and vocal music program are asked to pay an Instrumental Music Fee plus a Music Support Group Levy, and to pay for music used in their lessons. There is an additional charge if the student hires an instrument from the school.

Lessons are given during normal school hours. This means that music students usually miss one regular class each week to attend lessons. The instrumental and vocal lessons are rotated to minimise the effect on class work. Most students find that they can cope with this adequately. Year 11 & 12 students have lessons during music periods, free periods, lunchtime or before school. Lessons are usually given in groups at the teacher's discretion.



SPORT

The school operates a very active and wide ranging sports program, encompassing many different areas of expertise in both individual and team related pursuits. There is a wide variety of sporting activities in which the school is involved. Among them are Tennis, Soccer, Table Tennis, Football, Cricket, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Cycling, Swimming, Diving, Cross Country Running and Athletics. These are organised between forms and also on an inter-school level. Vermont Secondary College has performed exceptionally well over many years in sporting activities.

Involvement in the sports program helps to build friendships, improve personal fitness and self-esteem, and develops a positive ethos of both sportsmanship and college spirit. As over 50 members of staff are voluntarily involved in the program, staff/student relationships are also improved.

Sport is strongly encouraged in order for the following benefits to occur:

- Students have access to, and success in, sports activities both within the school and with other schools;
- Students are encouraged to attain a healthy body and good skill level in sporting activities;
- Students are encouraged to enjoy and appreciate the positive effects of physical activity;
- Students are encouraged to develop a strong sense of identity/worth through either individual prowess or the cohesion involved with being a team member;
- Students are encouraged to develop a strong collegiate identity and be proud of their and the college's achievements;

SPORT GUIDELINES:

- Mass participation in intra-school sport is actively encouraged at all year levels and is a cornerstone of the College Sport program;
- District Round Robin Sports days are conducted in Terms 1, 2 and 3 at the Senior, Intermediate, Year 7 and Year 8 levels;
- The sporting areas of Athletics, Cross-Country running and Swimming are competed in at intra-school level firstly, from which successful competitors are encouraged and coached through to progressively graded levels of inter-school competition which can culminate in the V.S.S.S.A. State Championships;
- Summer and Winter team sports and golf are undertaken at inter-school competition level, again with encouragement and coaching support up to V.S.S.S.A. State level, if successful;
- Vermont Secondary College also provides the opportunity for elite individuals and teams to compete in 'All Schools' competitions; we have experienced success over a number of years,
- We aim to incorporate physical & emotional development, positive interaction and teamwork, and of course enjoyment!

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The college has an extensive computer network and supporting infrastructure, including six full class labs and numerous Learning Area based half-class labs – these labs are all fully air-conditioned. In addition, the Library has a class research lab with 26 machines, as well as 14 laptops available for student and class use. There are 11 'computer pods' adjacent to Learning Area specialist rooms. Numerous multi-media projectors and interactive whiteboards have been installed throughout the college to assist staff and students in the learning and teaching process. All computers are networked and connected to the internet, and all printers and photocopiers are similarly networked and available to both staff and students. All students are provided with a college account, including email. The college has established procedures in cost control and internet services. Other portable devices such as digital cameras, scanners and digital video recorders are available for borrowing from the library. The college sets clear expectations on appropriate use of this valuable resource, and is currently reviewing its Cyber-safety and Peripherals policies. VSC has its own Learning Management System called 'Moodle' which students can access from school or home via the internet. Staff and students also have access to our wireless connection throughout the college. Every computer in the college is replaced over a three year cycle to ensure our equipment is kept up-to-date. The college has a Learning Technology committee, which enjoys very active parent support.

IMPORTANT DATES -- 2009

TERM 1

- ✘ School Photographs
- ✘ Form Captain Selection
- ✘ Year 7 Transition Camps
- ✘ School Production auditions and rehearsal
- ✘ SRC Elections
- ✘ VSC Swimming Carnival
- ✘ District Swimming and Diving
- ✘ PCA and Auxiliary Annual General Meetings
- ✘ VSC Athletics Carnival
- ✘ Year 7 Parent/Student/Teacher BBQ
- ✘ Semester 1 Working Bee
- ✘ Round Robins Sports (softball, baseball, cricket, volleyball)
- ✘ VSC Council AGM
- ✘ Interim Reports
- ✘ Year 9 PEP 1
- ✘ German Exchange Program to Australia

TERM 2

- ✘ District Athletics
- ✘ Autumn Concert
- ✘ VSC Open Evening/Parent Information Evening
- ✘ Round Robin Sports (football, soccer, netball, badminton)
- ✘ VSC Cross-Country
- ✘ District Cross-Country
- ✘ School Production rehearsals
- ✘ VCE exams and GAT
- ✘ Year 10 Work Experience
- ✘ VCE reports distributed
- ✘ English Competition
- ✘ Report Writing Day
- ✘ Year 9 PEP 2 - Camp
- ✘ Student Progress Conferences
- ✘ VCE Social

TERM 3

- ✘ Semester 1 Reports distributed
- ✘ School Production performances
- ✘ Maths Competition
- ✘ Year 11 Ski Trip
- ✘ Round Robin Sports – table tennis, basketball, hockey
- ✘ German Exchange Program to Germany
- ✘ Ballarat music competitions
- ✘ Music trip to USA (biennial)
- ✘ Senior School Australian Tour
- ✘ Interim reports
- ✘ Student Progress Conferences
- ✘ Year 9 - 10 Pathways Expo
- ✘ Year 9 PEP 3



TERM 4

- ✘ Semester 2 Working Bee
- ✘ Spring Concert
- ✘ Year 8 camps
- ✘ Year 12 Valedictory dinner
- ✘ VCE exams
- ✘ Music faculty banquet
- ✘ Wollangarra hike
- ✘ Great Victorian bike ride
- ✘ Year 7 Information Evening
- ✘ Orientation Day
- ✘ Second hand book & uniform sale
- ✘ End-of-Year Program
- ✘ Presentation Assemblies and Semester 2 reports distributed
- ✘ Year 9 PEP 4 - Work Experience

YEAR 7 COURSE OF STUDY

The Year 7 Course at Vermont Secondary College aims to provide:

- a smooth and successful transition from Grade 6 to Year 7
- a foundation for further development and success in future years in all learning areas
- a range of challenges and new experiences
- a caring and supportive environment

Students at Vermont Secondary College attend 30 periods per week, which are divided into five 6 period days. In Year 7 these 30 periods are divided between seven subjects. A number of these are semester based. Each period runs for 50 minutes.

The school runs a six period day starting at 8:40am with Form Assembly for Years 7 & 8. Classes commence at 8:45am.

Students are encouraged to be at school by 8:30am.

Dismissal is at 3:10 pm on all days except Mondays, when dismissal is at 3:05pm .

SUBJECTS OFFERED

YEAR 7	YEAR 8
<p>CORE</p> <p>Drama (One Semester) Integrated Studies - English - Economics - Geography - History LOTE – one of: - French - German - Indonesian Mathematics Music (One Semester) Physical Education Science & Systems technology Visual & Material Studies</p>	<p>CORE</p> <p>English Geography (One Semester) History (One Semester) Health Education (One Semester) LOTE – one of: - French - German - Indonesian Mathematics Music (One Semester) Physical Education Science & Systems Technology Visual & Material Studies</p>

Course details can be found in the Year Level Handbooks.

SUBJECTS OFFERED

YEAR 9

CORE

English
 French **OR** German **OR** Indonesian
 Geography (One Semester)
 History (One Semester)
 Mathematics
 Physical Education
 Science

Choose **ONE Technology** subject from:

Information Technology : Programming
 Languages,
 Materials – Food,
 Materials – Metal,
 Materials – Textiles,
 Materials – Wood,

AND ONE Arts subject from:

Art (Drawing and Design)
 Ceramics,
 Drama
 Music
 Visual Communication & Design

ELECTIVES: CHOOSE TWO (one for each semester)

Calligraphy
 Children's Literature
 Creative Writing
 Cross Age Tutoring
 Discovering the Outdoors
 Drama Performance
 Electronics
 English as a Second Language
 Fabric Design
 Environmental Studies
 Australians at War
 Make, Bake & Decorate
 IT – Software
 IT – Digital Imaging
 Applications
 Robotics
 Sculpture
 Song Writing
 Speech Arts
 MT – Combined Materials

YEAR 10

A new open structure is being introduced to Year 10 in 2009, to allow greater choice and flexibility for students leading into VCE. Students, who are recommended, may undertake two Units - i.e. one subject of VCE (Year 11) as one of their Elective Studies.

CORE

- English (2 Semesters)
- Maths Methods (2 Semesters)
 or General Maths (2 Semesters)
 or Maths in Careers (1 Semester ONLY)
- An elective choice from the Physical Education learning area (1 Semester)

ELECTIVES

Students choose Electives from the following Learning Areas: LOTE, Humanities, Arts, Technology, Health & Physical Education, Science and English.

LOTE – French; German; Indonesian

HUMANITIES –
 American History
 Asian History
 Geography
 This is your Life

ARTS –
 Art
 Ceramics
 Drama
 Music
 Visual Communication & Design

TECHNOLOGY –
 Food Technology
 Glasscraft
 Information Processing
 Information Technology
 Textiles – Wearable Art
 Web Design
 Woodwork

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION -
 Food & Hospitality
 Sports Lifestyles
 Leisure Education
 Community Involvement

SCIENCE -
 General Science
 Sports Science
 Forensic Science
 Space Science

ENGLISH - Enjoy & Appreciate Reading

Please note – The subject list is a general guide. There may be changes made to above list. A number of new subjects may be added in a number of different subject areas for 2010!

VCE STUDIES OFFERED (in 2009)

YEAR 11 (VCE Units 1 & 2)

CORE – 2 units from:

English, ESL, Literature or English Language

ELECTIVES:

Choose (5) two-unit sequences subject to balance requirements.

Accounting
Art
Biology
Business Management
Chemistry
Design & Technology
Drama
Economics
English Language
Food & Technology
French
Geography
General Mathematics D
General Mathematics A
German
Health & Human Development
History – 20th Century
Indonesian
Information Technology
Legal Studies
Literature
Mathematical Methods
Music : History & Styles
Music : Performance
Outdoor & Environmental Studies
Physical Education
Physics
Political Studies
Psychology
Studio Arts
Visual Communication & Design

YEAR 12 (VCE Units 3 & 4)

CORE – 2 units from:

English, ESL or Literature or English Language

ELECTIVES:

Choose (4) two-unit sequences subject to balance requirements.

Accounting
Art
Biology
Business Management
Chemistry
Design & Technology
Drama
Economics
Food & Technology
French
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
Health & Human Development
History - Australian
Indonesian
Information Processing & Management
Information Systems
Legal Studies
Literature
Mathematical Methods
Music: History& Styles
Music : Performance
Outdoor & Environmental Studies
Physical Education
Physics
Political Studies
Psychology
Specialist Mathematics
Studio Arts
Theatre Studies
Visual Communication & Design

POLICY ON PROMOTION OF STUDENTS

At VSC we expect our students to adopt our Vermont Values of **Excellence, Integrity, Responsibility, Respect and Tolerance** in all their interactions at and for school. We are proud of our reputation and tradition of strong academic achievement, as well as our focus on being a caring and supportive neighbourhood college. We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Thus, we expect our students to actively participate in this process, and to take increasing personal responsibility for their own learning. We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials, monitoring homework and wide-reading, as well as indirectly, by supporting the college and its policies.

Parents and students should be well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic. Levels of achievement, completion of coursework, and other considerations will be taken into account. These factors are set out in the relevant Year Level Handbooks.

Students are usually required to select courses for the following year during Term 3. Parents and students should study handbooks and documents related to courses for the following year level and submit a course selection, but final decisions on promotions and confirmation of courses will not be made until after final assessments in December offer a clear picture of the student's levels of achievement. In all cases where promotion is either not recommended (or where a student is on probation) the Year Level Co-ordinator will contact parents and a formal pathways counselling process will commence. Parental views on the best course of action, and student needs and interests, will be taken into consideration by the Promotion Panel.

In Junior secondary forms (Years 7 and 8) the following factors will be taken into consideration: academic achievement (meeting the appropriate levels of achievement - especially in English and Mathematics), behaviour, physical and social maturity, attitude and effort. Students who have not achieved appropriate levels of achievement or met coursework requirements may be required to undertake extra work over the summer break to ensure their skills are at the required standard, and to reflect the appropriate approach and attitude to studies.

For Years 9 to 11 (VCE) levels of achievement and completion of coursework gain increasing weight as a factor considered in reaching a decision about promotion to the next level. The mastery of key skills, the grasp of fundamental concepts, and the adoption of appropriate standards of intellectual endeavour, will increasingly become essential for promotion. Where this is not evident, students may encounter difficulty at the higher year level, and their progress will be specially monitored by the Year Level Co-ordinators. If progress is not satisfactory, then the student's position will be reviewed and appropriate action taken.

At Year 9 students must either:- Satisfy the requirements of English and at least four (4) other subjects; **OR** If he/she does not satisfy the requirements of English, his/her performance on the other eight subjects may be considered to compensate for this deficit.

NB: A semester length subject is counted as half a subject.

Poor performance in some subjects may lead to restrictions in entry to subsequent subjects.

At Year 10 students must: Satisfactorily complete two semesters of English **AND** Gain a total of at least thirty points for the other units completed over the year (points allocated according to the number of periods per week for a unit per semester e.g. Maths Methods = 5 periods per week = 5 points per semester = 10 points for the year).

Year 10 students who meet these requirements can be considered for entry to a full Year 11 VCE program, however, access to some VCE studies may be restricted, dependent on performance in related subjects in Year 10.

Year 10 students who do not meet these requirements: Will be required to attend a meeting, together with their parent/s, to discuss future pathway options **OR** May be required to complete specified assessment tasks over the summer break **OR** May be required to repeat Year 10 **OR** May be required to repeat a Year 10 course of study (combined Yr 10 & 11 course **OR** May be required to complete VCE over three years

In certain 'borderline' cases, for example where students are displaying the appropriate attitudes to work but are clearly not meeting the standards, they may be promoted to the next level on probation and a contract between parents, the student and the school must be entered into. College staff, in discussion with parents and students, will give clear direction on courses for which the students are best suited. If progress is then not satisfactory, or the conditions of the contract are not adhered to, then the student's position will be reviewed and appropriate action taken.

VCE Entry to Further Units - At the completion of each semester of the VCE, entry of students to further units will be considered on an individual basis.

NOTES:

Promotion Panel. For each year level a promotion panel is to operate consisting of the appropriate Level Co-ordinators, Student-Wellbeing Co-ordinator, and an Assistant Principal. They will be responsible for listing students who are recommended as being either not promotable or promoted on probation. Recommendations of Learning Area Co-ordinators and Subject Teachers will be taken into consideration.

Whole Year Subjects. The second semester result only may be used for promotion purposes, if the first semester result was unsatisfactory. If promotion is in doubt, then the first semester result will be taken into consideration. In Years 7, 8 and 9 a semester unit will be counted as half a subject.

Students within the Integration Support Program will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

CURRICULUM SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Cultural & Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental Music • Competitive/Non competitive public musical performances • Sister School with German school, student overseas exchange and hosting programs • Annual College Production • Interschool Dance Contest • Open Evening • Artist in Residence • Book Club • Vision - Art Exhibition • Continuous Art displays and Year Level Art Exhibitions
Sporting & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming/Athletics Carnivals • Interschool Sports such as Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming, Mountain Biking • Intra-school Sports such as Soccer, Basketball, Netball, Volleyball • Intra-school lunchtime activities competitions • Outdoor Education
Education Advancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEEP: Year 7 Enrichment Program • Subject based State/National competitions such as Science Talent Quest, Maths Competitions, Language Competitions, English Competitions, Computer Competitions, and Consumer Competition • Year 7 : Sustainability Conference, Diversity Program • Year 8 : Market Blues, Respect and Tolerance Day, Medieval Day • Year 9: 'PEP' Program, Extension Mathematics • VCE Acceleration • University Enrichment programs • Human Powered Vehicle • Faculty related Awareness Weeks such as Science, Geography, Mathematics, Language • Students writing for the weekly Newsletter and School magazine • Valedictory Dinner • Year 12: Concert ,Senior Social, Magazine production • Support programs operate in Years 7-10 • ESL program and specialist classes operate Years 7-12 • Presentation / Award Assemblies • Home Club and Lunchtime Maths Helproom • Debating & Public Speaking • Australian Business Week
Leadership & Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Leadership Team • Open Evening – Demonstrations and Guides • Student Sport Coaches • Student Officials at Swimming and Athletics Carnivals • Student Canteen Helpers • Student Representatives on College Council and other college committees • Student Representative Council • Senior Social Committee • Form Captains, Peer Leaders, Student Work Group

CURRICULUM SUPPORT & ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

Pathways, Careers & Work Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed Individual Program (MIPS) 9 -12 • Fast Track • KYM • VET/TAFE courses • Year 9 “Who am I” whole year program • Year 9 and Year 10 Work Experience [two weeks per year] • Careers Counselling Program - ongoing in Junior & Senior School • Careers & Pathways Information Sessions Nights for parents & Students Year 8-12 • Student Record of Achievement
Religious Activities & Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Prayer Group • Student Focus
Social Service & Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Age Tutoring • Year 8 Community Day • Ongoing fundraising activities by the SRC for charities – i.e. Red Nose Day, World Vision, 40 Hour Famine • Voluntary Community Involvement - Year 10 • Guest Speakers at General Assemblies
Pastoral Care and Counselling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Level Coordinators • Form Teachers • Student Well Being team • Pathways and work Education team • Year 7 Transition Camp • Years 6 - 7 Transition Program • Year 7 - 12 Peer Support • M.A.D. Student team • Student Services team
Camps & Excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition Camp Year 7 (Candlebark Farm) • LOTE Restaurant Visits • Weekend and Day Bike Rides • Outdoor Education Camps • Year 8 Ballarat Camp • Year 9 Camp (Phillip Island) • Year 10 METEC Driving Program • Year 10 Trip – Central Australia in 2008 • Year 11 Ski Trip • Great Victorian Bike Ride • School excursions such as the Arts Centre, local industries, parks • Faculty based Camps and Tours such as Music (Combined VSC/Feeder Primary Schools) • Zoo, Museum, Theatres • Adventure Camps (Wollangarra) • Student Exchange – Germany • French Trip

JUNIOR SCHOOL CAMPS PROGRAM (YEARS 7 - 9)

Students at Vermont Secondary College participate in an annual camp as part of the core curriculum throughout the Junior School years (7-9). We expect all students to attend and provide a range of flexible payment options to suit all families and circumstances.

The camps program aims to:

- 1 Provide off-campus educational experiences to supplement the curriculum and further enhance student interest in a range of curriculum extension activities;
- 2 Assist in the development of socialization skills;
- 3 Assist in the transition from primary to secondary school;
- 4 Assist in the orientation of all students to the college and its ethos;
- 5 Foster self-esteem;
- 6 Encourage leadership skills, personal development and pathway planning.

The Orientation Camp in Year 7 is held early in Term 1 at Candlebark Farm near Healesville. It offers a range of adventure activities over three days, and allows the Year 7 coordinators, staff and students to mix in the more relaxed atmosphere of a camp. It is one of the foundations of our highly successful Transition Program, and is a must for all Year 7 students, especially as it is the prime opportunity for the Year Level Coordinators and Integrated Studies teachers to spend time with and get to know their new students. In 2009 the cost is \$205.

At Year 8 we offer the three day Ballarat Camp in Term 4. This is a cross-curricular camp, which includes the English, Humanities, Science, Maths and Art Learning Areas. The camp involves two separate accommodation and educational experiences, one in a newly developed sustainable farm setting, the other 'under canvas' in a bush setting. Each setting becomes a focus for the students on many tasks and activities. The underlying concepts of resilience, sustainability, and adaptability are emphasised in reference to Australia's rich history. Sovereign Hill and/or the 'Blood on the Southern Cross' sound and light show may also be included. Work from this camp forms the basis of a student 'Exhibition' late in Term 4. In 2009 the cost is \$300.

As part of PEP (the Personal Enrichment & Extension Program) at Year 9, in Term Two we offer a five-day camp at Phillip Island Adventure Resort. The camp allows the students to engage in a range of challenging activities that will promote team-building and mixing, as well as leadership skills. Activities at the camp include: a goal setting course; raft building; flying fox; high ropes course; giant swing; rock-wall climbing; beach activities; two surfing lessons at Smith's Beach. Fully qualified activity staff support the college staff attending, particularly with the climbing, ropes, rafting and surfing courses.

In 2009 the cost for the 5-day camp program is \$430.



COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY

Vermont Secondary College is committed to the development and maintenance of close ties with its local community. We also acknowledge that our college and its students are part of a global community. In providing a high quality education for our students we actively seek to build mutually beneficial and cooperative relationships with parents, community members, agencies, industries and other relevant organisations.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Our relationships with the community are based on our core values of:

- Excellence
- Integrity
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Responsibility

COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE PROTOCOLS

To ensure a strong and effective partnership the college will:

- make all community members welcome
- encourage new members to participate in appropriate college activities
- support college based parent groups and promote parental involvement in college activities

PARENTS

Vermont Secondary College actively encourages parents to engage in the college program, particularly through the VSC Community Association (formerly PCA & Auxiliary). We rely on our parent community to:

- impart the value and importance of a sound education to their children
- encourage their children to strive for individual excellence
- work in partnership with staff to maximise the learning opportunities for their children
- support college values, policies, rules, processes, programs and decisions
- guide their children to behave in a safe, cooperative and courteous manner
- provide an effective study environment at home
- keep well informed of their children's progress and college events
- inform the college of any circumstances that may affect the learning and well-being of their child or other students
- participate in activities and processes that enhance the learning environment of students

PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

The college has a developing network of Past Students, currently actively engaged in planning the college's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2012.

EDUCATIONAL PROVIDERS

Vermont Secondary College is committed to:

- working in close partnership with our local primary school cluster
- building links and generating partnerships with post school educational providers such as universities and TAFE
- maintaining positive relationships with other primary and secondary schools
- building networks to enable our students to have opportunities to access alternative educational pathways, learning environments and future employment opportunities
- We believe that a cooperative relationship with our neighbourhood schools and our regional network will enhance our college programs through:
 - the development of goals, curriculum and teaching and learning approaches based on shared understandings
 - the sharing of expertise and resources
 - shared professional development

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Vermont Secondary College is committed to developing closer links and utilising industry to facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships and activities which lead to improved learning and employment opportunities for our students.

LOCAL RESOURCES, RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE FACILITIES, COMMUNITY SERVICES

Vermont Secondary College will appropriately utilise such services in:

- planning and conducting excursions, field trips, camps and tours
- work experience, work placements, work education and community involvement programs
- implementing our dynamic and expanding co-curricular program
- conducting VCE-VET programs
- our student well-being service

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Whenever community resources are being used, the college will ensure that:

- the demands placed on resources are reasonable and manageable
- the rights of community members are respected and confidentiality assured in accordance with the Privacy Act 2001
- appropriate protocols are established and maintained

COMMUNICATION

Vermont Secondary College will encourage open communication with our community through:

- Our Website: www.vermontsc.vic.edu.au
- Email Contact
- Weekly school newsletters
- Parent group and council meetings
- Parent information evenings
- Open evening
- Musical and theatrical events
- Student Progress Conferences
- School tours (Prospective Year 7 students and families)
- Availability of the Annual Report, Triennial Review Report, Annual Implementation Plan
- Involving community members in appropriate college activities such as working bees, assemblies and support programs
- Maintaining an 'open door' policy
- Seeking feedback from our community through parent opinion surveys and other questionnaires as required

Vermont College News

Excellence Respect Responsibility Integrity Tolerance

Issue 3 Tel: 9673 8877 Fax: 9674 4368 vermontsc.vic.edu.au Address: RPTD 6358 February 16, 2006

THE WEEK AHEAD

FRIDAY 17 FEBRUARY

- VCE Learning Central
- All V17 students attend, V9-V12 completion only

MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

- 8:00 Morning Practice
- V17 Camp Day 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 - 20th-22nd
- Senior Semester Round Robin
- Music Support Group Mtg, 7.30pm Music Centre

TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY

- V10 Liaison Ed. Surfing Phillip Island
- Home - 2.00pm BPTG classes
- Learning Tech Mtg, 4pm Cost Room
- College Council Mtg, 5.00pm Cost Room

WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY

- Plant 2 Year 11 Careers Fair Track
- Home - 2.00pm

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY

- V10 Liaison Ed. Surfing Phillip Island
- Home - 2.00pm V10 class

FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY

- 8:00 Morning Practice
- Students used to return personal/teacher folder contents and return any FREE BAY!
- Spring Evening 7.00pm - 10.00pm
- Theatricals Musical Blue Camp 2nd - 2nd
- V17 Morning Camp 2nd - 2nd
- V1-10/12 Dinner Executive Matheson 7.00pm - 10.00pm

DIARY DATES

Year 7 Camp Dates
2002-03 V17 Camp 2-7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 V17 Camp 1-7, 14, 15, 16

February
12 - Learning & Teaching Cn. Mtg
13 - 8.00pm Conference Home

March
1 Intermediate Semester Round Robin
11 V17 Dinner Info, Night Spn
14 Intermediate Triennial
16 Dinner Evening
18 V10 Dinner Info, Night Spn
19 Dinner Evening
20 V10 Dinner Dinner
21 V10 Dinner Dinner

ANNUAL TERM ONE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

2005 SPIRIT OF ANZAC PRIZE

Having congratulated on Mark Corbett (10.2) who has been selected as one of 10 students from across Victoria to join the ANZAC Spirit and Anzac Bush Tour to Singapore, Vietnam and Japan from April 14th-26th, 2006. Seth was selected for this tour from over 200 applicants and 15 regional finalists. It is an extraordinary achievement and the tour will be the highlight of his life. Encouraged by his History Teacher Mr Peter Wright, Seth did a huge amount of time over the recent school holidays researching and preparing his application and presentation.

Seth received a certificate in honour of his achievement as a Victorian Anzac Spirit, but was also awarded by his friends, Mr James Shanks, Minister for Educational Services and Youth Affairs, Mr Richard Stone, Seth's parents, Liz and Andrew Corbett and numerous dignitaries.

We are very proud of Seth and wish him well for his trip. We look forward to hearing of his experiences upon his return. Well done Seth!

TOP VCE PERFORMERS

Last Monday at our college assembly, we had the great pleasure of celebrating and acknowledging the outstanding performance of students from the VCE class of 2005.

Certificates and presentations were presented to our great first students, **Isabella Rowland** and **Michael Lawless** who received ENTER scores of 99.5. **Melanie Kinkaid** received an ENTER score of 99.37 and her achievement was also acknowledged.

Certificates were also awarded to the following students who were also in the top 2% of the class:

Jack Fitzgerald
Scott Mc James
Anna Wigg

Certificates were also presented to the following students who received perfect study scores of 100:

Melanie Kinkaid - Biology
Katherine Brown - Food and Technology
Jack Fitzgerald - Information Processing and Management

Certificates also went to all students with individual study scores over 45. Congratulations to all of them!

The following students received Key Learning Area Awards for individual excellence as a student:

Andy - Class Values
English - Sarah Bennett
Mathematics - Michael Lawless
Health and PE - Jillian Turner
Home and Systems Technology - Melissa Kinkaid
Information Technology - Jack Fitzgerald
Languages - The Gilling
Married Technology - Catherine Scott

We are very proud of all our students from the class of 2005 and they have set a very high benchmark for this year's Year 12 students. Once again, I congratulate them on all their efforts.

2005 MONASH PRIZE

Congratulations to Catherine White (12.2) who was presented with the Monash Prize for Academic Excellence. Catherine joined Monash University in this week's Senate Assembly. The Monash Prize is awarded to the most outstanding of all second students performance at Year 12 level. We wish Catherine well in her Year 12 studies this year.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

At our assembly on Monday and SSC students were presented with a Commonwealth Games Bag for the Games. Monash will host the Commonwealth Games only weeks away so we will be the flag bearers in celebration of this special and historic event.

APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Scott Mc James a parent of one of our students has volunteered to act as our School Development Officer for the next six months. Scott has a great deal of experience in governance and pedagogy and we are delighted that he has offered his services to us over the next six months.

VCE SWIMMING CARNIVAL
Friday 24th February
Monash Aquatics Centre

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council has a major responsibility for deciding the educational policies of this school while leaving the operations to school administration. This body comprises elected representatives of six parents and four DEECD employees. Four co-opted positions are available: Two Student representatives and two representatives from the College Community Association.

Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. Interested parents are welcome to attend.

VERMONT SECONDARY COLLEGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Since the interests of the students form the basis of this very active group, all parents are urged to join and support the VSCCA. New students to the school often feel they have more parental support if their parents are involved. The group co-operates in various ways with the School Council in furthering interest in the college. The VSCCA aims:

- To contribute to the well-being of the College Community (students, parents and staff).
- To liaise with the College Council and the Principal in identifying needs and concerns within the College Community.
- To encourage the participation of all parents in the life of the school (events, working bees, committees, networks) and the education of their children.
- To provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be informed about their child's school and general education issues.
- To work in cooperation with the College Council and the Principal.
- To raise funds for the benefit of the school and disburse these funds as required.

CANTEEN

The Canteen is under the control of the Canteen Manager and is dependent on the voluntary help of parents (mums and dads!) and grandparents. Students also assist with window sales. Duty hours start at 10:00 am and end at 1:45 pm and include a 45 minute to one hour break in between for lunch (which is provided) or leisure. Profits from the Canteen are returned directly to the school for the benefit of all students. Volunteers are crucial for the smooth running of the canteen and any support is invaluable. The canteen staff provide a full induction program.

MUSIC SUPPORT GROUP

Parents and students interested in helping to develop and improve the Music program at VSC are invited to join the Music Support Group or help with Music Support Group activities.

The Music Support Group plays an important role in the Music program throughout the year, including planning concerts and trips, making special uniforms for the Stage Band, maintaining and improving the Music Centre, publicising music activities, helping with music camps, transporting instruments to concerts, and fundraising. One of the major fundraising projects conducted by the Music Support Group is the weekly Friday lunchtime Sausage Sizzle in Term 2.

All of these activities require many willing hands. If you are interested in helping with these activities and in shaping the growth of the Music program, the Music Support Group meets on Monday evenings in the Music Centre and we invite you to attend and join our team. Best wishes for a musical new year!

WORKING BEES

The college has two working bees per year which save the College many thousands of dollars in maintenance costs. They are coordinated by an Assistant Principal and our Maintenance Coordinator, Tony Thomas, who ensure that a list of work tasks has been compiled, and that the required equipment and material is available. Working bees commence at 9:00am and conclude at 1:00pm with brunch provided.

Working bees are a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents from the school whilst contributing valuable assistance to the improvement of the college's physical environment and/or providing additional facilities for students. The college relies on the generous support of parents to assist at working bees.

BUS (TRANSPORT) ARRANGEMENTS

VENTURA BUS COMPANY provides bus transport in the area.

Telephone: 9764 2676 (Knox Depot).

Information & timetables available on their website: www.venturabus.com.au

COMING TO SCHOOL:

BUS 742 (Number 1) :

Departs in the morning at 8:00am from Eastland, then via Maroondah Highway, Heatherdale Station, Heatherdale Road, Canterbury Road, Blanche Drive, Centre Road, Boronia Road, Morack Road.

BUS 740 (Number 2):

Departs from Mitcham Station at 8:00am and proceeds via Brunswick Road, Reserve Avenue, Garden Avenue, Creek Road, Simpson Street, Ian Crescent, Ferris Avenue, Glenburnie Road, Langford Avenue, Scott Street, Churinga Avenue, Purches Street, Canterbury Road, Blanche Drive, Centre Road, Boronia Road, Morack Road.

MORNING SCHOOL BUS FROM WANTIRNA:

Departs the Studfield shops at 8:10am and along Stud Road, turns right into Boronia Road, turns left into Pindari Drive, turns right into Terama Crescent, turns left into Bona Vista Road, turns left into Mountain Hwy., turns right into Boronia Road then to VSC.

BUS 738:

Departs Knox City at 8:00am and proceeds along Burwood Hwy; Templeton Street; Harold Street; Mountain Hwy; Wantirna Road; Boronia Road. Drops students at the corner of Boronia and Morack Roads.

CHADSTONE TO EASTLAND BUS 742:

Departs Glen Waverley at 8:15am - collects students at the Vermont South Shopping Centre at 8:28 and arrives outside the school at 8:35am.

BUS 738:

Departs Mitcham Station at 8:00am via Maroondah Hwy., Rooks Road, Canterbury Road, Boronia and Morack Roads.

VENTURA SPECIAL

Departs McClares Road and Hindle Drive Vermont at 8:05am via Jolimont Road, Stevens Road, Canterbury Road, Rooks Road, Owen Street, Mitcham Road, Morack Road the to VSC.

LEAVING SCHOOL (from within school grounds):

1ST BUS AT 3:15 - Morack Road, Boronia Road, Centre Road, Blanche Drive, Canterbury Road, Heatherdale Road, Heatherdale Railway Station, Forster Road, Purches Street, Brunswick Road.

2ND BUS AT 3:15 - Morack Road, Boronia Road, Canterbury Road, McClares Road, Jolimont Road, Stevens Road, Canterbury Road, Rooks Road, Owen Street, Mitcham Road - Mitcham Station

3RD BUS AT 3:15 - Boronia Road, Centre Road, Blanche Drive, Canterbury Road, Heatherdale Road, Churinga Avenue, Scott Street, Langford Avenue, Glenburnie Road, Ferris Street, Ian Crescent, Simpson Street, Creek Road, Garden Avenue, Reserve Avenue, Brunswick Road - Mitcham Station

4TH BUS AT 3:15PM - Boronia Road, Mountain Highway, Bona Vista Road, Terama Crescent, Pindari Drive, Boronia Road, Stud Road to Studfield Shops.

Knox City Bus departs VSC at 3.40pm - Travels from Vermont PS to Vermont SC and travels Morack Road, right Rutherglen Road, left Coonawarra Drive, right Tanunda Street, left Great Western Drive, right Morack Road, left Burwood Hwy to Knox City.

EXPLANATION OF COUNCIL REQUESTED CHARGES

COMMON LEVY - this levy includes costs for items or services distributed to, or utilised by, every student.

More extensive learning materials and services are desired by most parents above those provided from Government funding. A Common Levy is set for every student. This levy covers a wide range of items including: -

Capital Equipment	Computers	Print & Internet Credits
Lockers	Student Diary	Photocopied Class Materials
Sick Bay Attendants	Student ID card	Transport to School Sports
School Magazine	School Production Levy	Work Education / Pathways
Year 12 Concert	Annual Art Exhibition	

and the following year level charges:-

Year 7 Combination Lock	Year 7 Diversity Day	Year 8 Foods & Health
Year 8 Medieval Day	Years 7 Science Levy	Years 7 & 8 Reach Program
Years 7, 8, 9 - Maths Competition Entry	Years 8 English Activities (includes some excursions)	
Years 9 & 11 English Activities	Year 12 'Class of 2009' costs	

Please note: For your convenience some excursions have been included within the 2009 Common Levy therefore prompt payment of the Common Levy is required.

COLLEGE COUNCIL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMON LEVY FOR 2009 BE SET AT \$430* PER STUDENT ACROSS ALL YEAR LEVELS

* Note: a discounted rate of \$395 will be applicable to any Common Levy payment received within 30 days of the date of the first invoice only – issued in February.

College Council have further recommended that some EMA recipients and parents on instalment plans may be eligible for the discounted rate under certain conditions only. Please contact the Business Manager, Mrs Pam Brutovic, on 8872 6316 for further details.

ELECTIVE LEVIES - APPLICABLE ONLY TO YEARS 9-12 and VET LEVIES

A number of elective subjects, with a high practical component, **require a levy which parents are required to pay.** These are electives that have significant excursions built into the program; the student consumes or takes possession of the finished articles, or requires special materials.

Vermont Secondary College requires all fees for non-compulsory electives as well as camp and excursions are paid up front as this ensures that costs are distributed equally amongst all participants.

Students participating in a Vocational Educational Training (VET) program are advised that the VET levies are set by Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority and **not** by Vermont and therefore parents are required to pay the cost of VET programs (if applicable) provided on a fee for service basis.

REFUND POLICY

At various times throughout the school year students are unable to attend prepaid camps and excursions. In addition some students leave school or transfer to another school. In these cases Vermont Secondary College has a Refund Policy which applies.

VOLUNTARY COLLEGE FUNDS - (includes Tax Deductible Funds)

The College Council believes that most parents are willing to make donations to provide additional resources for their student's benefit. The Council invites donations to the following funds.

Building Fund (Tax Deductible):

The Vermont Secondary College Building Fund is registered with the Australian Taxation Office. Our sincere thanks must go to all the families who have previously contributed to this most important fund. Your contributions enabled School Council to contribute just over \$390,000 of locally raised funds towards Stage One of the Master Plan which is now complete.

Construction of Stage 2 of the Master Plan has commenced and includes the building of a new, centrally located Library, Lecture and Multi Media Centre, Year 7 Centre, Flexible Learning Centre and a Senior Study area.

Most of the rebuilding costs will be borne by the State Government, however in some areas our vision for our learning spaces extends beyond our entitlement and therefore Vermont Secondary College is again required to contribute a substantial amount towards the final cost. Your contributions and the contribution of past families allow us such flexibility and as such all contributions are greatly valued.

The College Council has recommended that the 2009 Family donation to the Building Fund be \$100.00

Larger donations to the Building Fund are always most welcome. We encourage parents to become patrons by donating over \$250. As a thank you for your patronage your donation will be formally acknowledged in a new building.

Library Fund (Tax Deductible):

VSC Library provides many services to the College, including the provision and maintenance of audio visual equipment, including digital video and still cameras and MP3 players for students to borrow when producing work requirements, a much more extensive range of recreational reading magazines and research journals, as well as laptop and computer equipment.

The Vermont Secondary Library Fund enables parents to contribute to further improvement in the range of facilities including additional computer facilities as well as the Master Plan upgrade. **A new library will be built and re-furnished during 2009.** The Library Fund is registered with Australian Taxation Office in the same way as the Building Fund allowing contributions to be claimed in taxation returns.

The College Council has recommended that the Family donation to the Library Fund for 2009 therefore be \$50.00

We encourage parents to become patrons by donating over \$250. As a thank you for your patronage your donation will be formally acknowledged within the new library.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE TO HELP ME PAY THESE CHARGES?

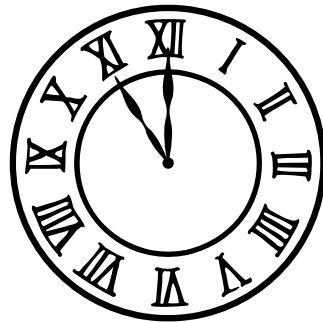
A range of support options are available to parents, including:

- The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to low income families to assist with the cost of education their children.
- The School Start Bonus is to assist parents and guardians of Year 7 students in meeting the start-up costs of sending their child to school.
- Access to State Schools' Relief Committee support, via the Student Wellbeing Co-ordinators at the college, who can assist with uniforms / books.

For further information regarding parent payments, visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

Vermont Secondary College
P O Box 138
VERMONT 3133

OFFICE HOURS



Monday to Thursday
8:00am – 4:30pm

Friday
8:00am – 4:00pm

Telephone: 9873 1077

Absence Line: 8872 6338
(24 hour message bank)

Website: www.vermontsc.vic.edu.au

Email: vermont.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au