PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Just this week I have sent the school’s new strategic plan to our Regional Director for final comment and feedback. This document frames the key development work of the school over the next four years. It is based on discussions with students, staff, parents and other community members, and with external reviewers. The finalised document should be available on the school website sometime next term, but I did want to share with you the main directions outlined in the plan, as we have started to work in each of these areas. These directions are currently expressed as eight draft “key improvement strategies”. I have listed them, with some very short explanations, below.

1. Continue to build consistency in high quality classroom experiences for students, through:
   a. implementing an agreed instructional model based on research and evidence;
   b. documenting courses in line with notions of a “guaranteed and viable” curriculum;
   c. and developing associated coherent and targeted professional learning opportunities and expectations.

This key improvement strategy really focuses on our core business – quality of curriculum and teaching and learning processes. The notion of a “guaranteed and viable” curriculum currently used in many school and university systems globally. The “guaranteed” aspect is about working to ensure that where there are multiple classes of the same subject running at a year level (year 10 history, for example) there are important core learnings that happen in every one of those classes. The “viable” aspect is about ensuring that courses are organised so that all those core learnings can be addressed, and addressed well, in the time available.

Our school has a varied and dynamic curriculum delivered by committed and talented teachers. This key improvement strategy is about continuing to extend and build on those strengths.

2. Build a whole school approach to the collection and use of evidence and data.

The better schools understand their students’ learning needs and progress, the more able they are to plan for individual growth and development. This key improvement strategy is about continuing to reflect on and improve the sorts of testing we do, the way that information is provided to teachers, students and parents, and the use that is made of that information to support student learning. It is also about the college’s use of information from multiple sources to continue to improve whole-school programs and practices.

3. Plan, build and monitor student transitions and development into, throughout, and beyond the school – both individually and collectively.

This key improvement strategy is about working closely with our partner P-9 schools to develop successful transitions for our students into year 10, and a cohesive and coherent educational experience for students in the Point Cook precinct. It is also about reviewing our processes and practices that support students as they move through the various levels of the school and beyond into further education or employment.

4. Develop and implement a whole school student involvement program that includes increased opportunities for student leadership across the school, teaching and learning approaches that focus on student participation, greater student ‘voice’ in their learning to build confidence and metacognition.

This key improvement strategy is about empowering all students to be active participants in the learning process. It is about whole-school leadership opportunities for as many students as possible, but it is also about heightened student involvement in their own learning. The learning process is about the way a person engages with new material, develops new practices and understandings, and makes personal sense of these opportunities. Learning is not something that can be done to or for someone – it requires the learner to engage, to fully participate, and to think. This is what we want for all our students. It has been a key focus of the school – and will continue to be so.

5. Refine, document and implement a whole school agreed approach to student wellbeing and positive behaviours.

Over the course of the next few years, you will read and hear a great deal about the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support framework. This framework provides a process that will help us define even more clearly the agreements and expectations around the way we all behave in a young adult learning environment. It is about clearly communicating and building the expected and agreed behaviours.

6. Embed approaches to physical and mental health and wellbeing into curriculum and programs across the school.

As part of this key improvement strategy we are investigating ways to promote and support the physical and mental health of the young people under our care. As a first step in this process, Mental Health First Aid Training (three 75 minute sessions) has been booked in for all year 10 students in the first three weeks of next term. A significant number of teachers have been trained in this program, and more will train every year. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students and our school, and is just one of the initiatives we will be incorporating in the area of student health.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT (CONTINUE)

7. Develop and implement an ICT and e-learning master plan.
The use of ICT and other emerging technologies to further student learning will be an ongoing area of growth for schools in the 21st Century. This key improvement strategy is about establishing a broad and comprehensive plan for Point Cook Senior in this area. Major components of the master plan will include: classroom practice to enhance learning using technology; staff professional learning; infrastructure provision and maintenance; IT support planning; student equipment and access; resourcing and budgeting.

8. Target and monitor school resources to achieve the goals of the school strategic plan.
This strategy is about planning effectively to make sure that the appropriate resources are available to support the work of the strategic plan – that people are in place, processes organised and finances carefully considered.

I look forward to reporting on progress in many of these areas in future newsletters.

As it is the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and relaxing break. I look forward to seeing all our students and staff back at school on Monday 13 April.

Darryn Kruse

International Students

On 11 March Marsita Rahman 12J and Hara Jeong 11C were invited to Government House to represent the international students from Point Cook Senior Secondary College at the official welcome from the Victorian Governor, the Honourable Alex Chernov AC QC, and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the Hon. James Merlino, which took place in the Ballroom. Then all the international students had their photo taken on the steps of Government House with the Governor.

After the formal speeches the students were invited to join the Governor for morning tea and to look around Government House, a rare privilege, and were able to view the Dining Room, Billiards Room and the Drawing Room. They were also allowed to walk around the garden which had great views across Melbourne.

Chris Mooney

The Welcome for International Students was a really great experience and opportunity to be at the Governor’s House. Having to see the Governor, seeing the house and being at the house itself. The event was specially to welcome us, the International Students that are studying in Victoria. It was really a warm welcome from the Governor and Minister for Education. Listening to a speech from the 2013 School Captain award winner was really inspiring. And I am happy to say that I enjoyed the whole event with Mr Mooney driving us, being there with us and driving us back to school. So thank you so much for giving us the opportunity.

Marsita Rahman
Point Cook Senior Instructional Model

A key component of Point Cook Senior Secondary College’s 2015-2018 Strategic Plan is the development and introduction of a school-wide instructional model. Essentially, this will be an agreed-upon approach to teaching that encapsulates the most effective strategies that we use as teachers, and implements them in a consistent, developed and considered way across the school. The aim is to produce students who are active learners, equipped with a ‘tool-kit’ of powerful thinking skills and learning behaviours.

We will be undertaking extensive professional development as a staff, exploring the educational research around highly-effective teaching strategies and the impact they have on improving student achievement. The start of 2015 will be used to develop, explore and understand a chosen instructional model, before it is systematically introduced into our classrooms over the next three years.

This is an incredibly exciting time for us at PCSSC as we undertake this next stage of the school’s development, continually striving to provide the greatest educational opportunities for our students.

Jules Damschke
Teaching and Learning Leader

The Chaplain’s Corner

2015 Cultural Diversity Week at PCSSC

March 14 - 22 March was National Cultural Diversity Week and Point Cook Senior participated in the celebration of the Cultural Diversity Week to raise awareness of cultural diversity and harmony.

Cultural Diversity Week is held annually to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Harmony Day) on 21 March, and it is an opportunity for all Victorians and Australians to come together to share their culture, faith and language. Cultural Diversity week is about the celebration of Australia’s cultural diversity in the spirit of inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

As a culturally diverse school, PCSSC celebrated the week by organising different activities to promote cultural diversity and harmony. Some of the activities included the school playing music from different cultural backgrounds; staff brought and shared food from their cultural backgrounds and staff were encouraged by the Principal to raise awareness and celebrate the day in their Advisory groups. In 11A, the Advisory group which I regularly attend, the Advisory teacher explained the meaning and importance of cultural diversity week and talked about stereotypes. Ms Marie showed a video on stereotyping and gave her Advisory students the opportunity to share and discuss their personal experiences and thoughts on the topic. Other Advisory teachers had different Cultural Diversity activities in their Advisory groups.

Cas Gemoh
Chaplain/Student Wellbeing

VCAL FORMULA ONE

Friday the 13th! The Formula 1, the rush of energy and the flow of adrenaline. The day was one big escape for the year 12 VCAL students of 2015.

The day started with the Southern Cross Train Station meet up, then a short stroll to the outside trams waiting to take us. You could tell everyone was excited, on edge and couldn’t wait to get down to the circuit. We shortly arrived and entered. The Heritage race was on; everyone was trying to find a good spot to take a peak of the race, even if it was for 30 seconds.

The day at the Formula One Jut started and this meant free gifts, give-aways and a speech from the Pirelli Racing Team with their thoughts on who would have the best chance this year at the Grand Prix and who would put up a fight. It took no more than 10 minutes, but nevertheless you could see everyone was so anxious to get up, find their mates and explore. With the speech ending and overlooking the seminar area after 10 seconds no Point Cook Senior VCAL student was in sight. The race was on to find the best spot to get a good look at the Formula One cars racing to get the fastest lap time to have themselves in the best starting position on the following Saturday. That wasn’t all. There were fascinating car shows, performers, and hundreds of little individual stalls which were made up of apparel for each Racing Team, speed and reaction games and tests and even fitness tests.

Slowly but surely the day was coming to a close, and by 1:40pm we all met back up to get our names marked off. Everyone was exhausted and worn out but thrilled to be a part of such an experience but, for most, it was time to depart from the grounds. We made our way back to the trams to Southern Cross Train Station, exchanging our day’s experience and the best parts of the event.

By Robert Parsons
VCAL Newsletter article

On Tuesday 17th March, 16 VCAL students with Mr Flannery and Miss Gugger travelled to Torquay to take part in the Coastal Guardians Program run by the Great Ocean Road Coastal Committee. The Coastal Guardians Program is aimed at increasing awareness around environmental issues and encouraging social responsibility and environmental stewardship. Ultimately, it is hoped that participants will be able to walk along a protected coast in years to come and enjoy the benefits of their hard work. The 16 students participated in removing 'Coast Tea Tree Weed' from the Fisherman’s Beach area of Torquay and also helped pick up rubbish along the coast line.

FOUNDATION MATHS GARDENS

In Mr Williams’ Maths class we are spending time in the garden. How does this have anything to do with Maths? Well we have done measurements, and have done some research on prices for the seeds, and counted how many vegetable we might grow. It’s fun to get out of the classroom.

PDS CAFÉ

In PDS we have started to make and design a café program at school. In this program we will be making coffee, hot chocolate, muffins, cookies and pies to serve people. We have started to work on the café in PDS classes. In these classes we have got recipes and we have design the outlook of the small classroom.
Year 12 Business Management Excursion to the Port of Melbourne

This term the Year 12 Business Management students attended a wonderful excursion to the Port of Melbourne to learn more about the topic they are currently studying, "Operations Management". The Port of Melbourne is Australia’s largest maritime hub for containerised cargo and handles around 36% of Australia’s container trade per year, so the port is quite an important organisation for not only Victoria but Australia. The students got to see first hand how an operations system of a large-scale organisation works and got to see in the flesh what they have been learning about for the last few weeks. This is the first time Point Cook Senior has used this excursion venue for this area of study and the feedback from students as well as staff saw it as a very valuable experience. Hopefully this experience has inspired students to want to pursue a career in operations in the future.

Careers Information

Year 10 Work Experience Program.

In Term 2, all Year 10 students at Point Cook Senior Secondary College will be participating in a compulsory Work Experience Program from 15-19 June. Work experience is part of the school’s educational program where students often experience the world of work for the first time. Work experience also provides students with real-life industry experience and an opportunity to work alongside an employer to observe and learn in an occupation of interest.

All Year 10 students have received a Work Experience Handbook and Work Experience Forms from their advisory teacher. We strongly encourage students to read the handbook and with the information provided seek their own work experience placements over the Term 1 school holidays. Organising work experience is a valuable exercise for students to further strengthen their communication and research skills. Once a placement has been arranged with an employer, we ask that your child meet with the employer to have their forms completed and signed. The forms also need to be signed by a parent/guardian and the student. All completed forms should be returned to the students’ advisory teachers in the first week of Term 2. If your child is having great difficulty finding a placement, we encourage that they speak to their advisory teacher or see the careers office for additional support in early term 2.

The Careers Office is open at Point Cook Senior at recess, lunch time and after school for individual career counselling and pathway support. Please see Career Leader/Counsellor, Mary Dimech-Hill, to make an appointment.

Attention Year 12s

Find Your Place With RMIT– Ready Set Design

What is Ready Set Design?

• Ready Set Design is a series of three workshops for VCE students where you can learn about careers and tertiary programs in Design, develop your folio, and practice your interview and presentation skills.
• Workshops are held in the March, June and September school holidays. We recommend that students attend all three sessions to get the most out Ready Set Design.

Where and when:

• RSD Workshop #1: Design Bytes Learn about careers and study option in design.
  Date: Saturday 28 March Time: 10 am - 12 pm
• RSD Workshop #2: Folio Bytes A hands-on workshop exploring folio development in different areas of design.
  Date: Saturday 27 June Time: 10 am - 1 pm
• RSD Workshop #3: Interview Bytes Discover what to expect in a design interview, and practice your folio presentation skills.
  Date: Saturday 19 September Time: 10 am - 12 pm

• How to register, visit https://rmitsnap.eventbrite.com.au
• Select the event/s you wish to register for click 'register' and provide your details.
• You will receive an email confirmation immediately after registering.
Swimming Carnival

It was another fantastic day for Point Cook Senior Secondary College’s Swimming Carnival. It was held at Lara Swimming Club. The day was filled with swimming events as well as other advisory activities such as the hair salon, pirate ship, beach volleyball and the photo booth. Just like every other year the students looked forward to participating and supporting other students who compete in the novelty events. The ironman and ironwoman event is the biggest highlight of the day! Students take part in an active challenge event by swimming through water, eating a dry Weetbix, running around the big pirate ship, eating a cold meat pie, then swimming back through the water to drink a bottle of cold water. We had some very enthusiastic participants this year, who all wanted to be crowned the ironman or ironwoman of 2015. The students did a wonderful job dressing in their allocated house colours and the year 12 students stood out in their fancy dress costumes. They all looked fabulous. Students put in a lot of effort to create a fun and colourful atmosphere. A big thank you to all staff for helping out and showing their support to make the day thrilling and enjoyable for all students. Congratulations to Iroquois (Green house) for accumulating the most points for the day and also to all students who participated in the individual events. The following students gained the most points within their year level, participated in the Hobsons Bay Division and have qualified for the Western Metropolitan Region.

PCS Individual Winners
Year 10 Boy: Hayan Azcoul
Year 10 Girl: Ariana Eruera-Chase
Year 11 Boy: Samuel Depasquale
Year 11 Girl: Emily Bourke
Year 12 Boy: Evan Kous

Hobson Bay Division Results:
Travis Shipp-1st place 50m×4 relay, 20Yr M 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 16Yr M 4×50m Freestyle Relay 1st place.

Hayan Azcoul-15Yr 50m Breaststroke 1st place, 20Yr 100m Breaststroke 2nd Place, 15Yr M 50m Freestyle 2nd place, 20Yr M 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 16Yr M 4×50m Freestyle Relay 1st place.

Natasha Kikidis-16 Yr 50m Breaststroke 2nd place, 20Yr F 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 17Yr F 4×50m Freestyle Relay 1st place.

Sam Depasquale-17 Yr 50m Breaststroke 2nd place, 20Yr M 100m Freestyle 2nd place,

Corey Vandermeer-16Yr M 50m Freestyle 2nd place, 20Yr M 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place, 16Yr M 4×50m FStyle Relay 1st place.

Alex Tsakarias- 50m Breaststroke 2nd place, 16Yr M 50m Backstroke 2nd place, 20Yr M 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place, 16Yr M 4×50m Freestyle Relay 1st place

Mikela Bourke-17Yr F 50m Backstroke 1st place

Tiania Bedwell-16Yr F 50m Freestyle 2nd place, 20Yr F 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 17Yr F 4×50m Freestyle Relay 1st place. Ariana Eruera-Chase-15Yr F 100m Freestyle 1st place, 15Yr F 50m Freestyle 1st place, 20Yr F 100m Backstroke 1st place, 15Yr F 50m Backstroke 1st place, 15Yr F 200M Individual Medley 1st place, 20Yr F 4×50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 17Yr F 4×50m FStyle Relay 1st place.
Swimming Carnival

Sarah Rieilly - 17Yr F 50m Freestyle 2nd place, 20Yr F 4x50m Medley Relay 2nd place & 17Yr F 4x50m Freestyle Relay 1st place.
Mason Ahumada - 20Yr M 50m Freestyle 3rd place.

Western Metropolitan Region Qualifiers:
Travis Shipp
Hayan Azcoul
Natasha Kikidis
Sam Depasquale
Corey Vandermeer
Alex Tsakarias
Mikela Bourke
Tiania Bedwell
Ariana Eruera-Chase

By Danielle Murray (Sport Leader)

Inter-School Cricket

On Wednesday 4th March, 14 of our best year 10 & 11 cricketers went to Altona to play a series of limited over matches. Our first game against Bayside College was played in excellent spirited rivalry and good humour. Bayside won the toss and elected to bat first, much to the delight of our PCSSC team. While our bowlers performed well dismissing all the Bayside batsmen, Bayside set a daunting total of 140 runs from the mandatory 16 overs, requiring a run rate of better than 8.75 runs per over for us to win the game.

Our batsmen started well, with our opening batsmen hitting fours and sixes to all parts of the ground, making the run chase look relatively easy. They were then well supported by the batsmen to follow, with PCSSC finally passing 140 runs with more than an over to spare for a well-deserved victory.

This progressed PCSSC to the second round, where we played last year’s finalists, Paisley. Although this team was made of year 11 and 12 students, our predominantly year 10s put up a fine display of bowling to keep Paisley to 137 after the shortened 14 overs. This put the pressure on our boys. Facing a more mature bowling line up and excellent fielding, PCSSC were unable to keep up the required rate of runs before being all out for under 50 runs.

All players showed excellent team spirit and the umpires commented on the positive manner in which the game was played and the good humour between the teams. Well done to PCSSC. All players are looking forward to an even better display from a team that will be more experienced and one year older next year.

Bruce Williams.
PCSSC Cricket Coach
World's Greatest Shave

On Friday 13th March Point Cook Senior held its 4th annual World’s Greatest Shave event to raise money and awareness for Leukaemia research. For the previous three weeks the Year 10 PreCAL CAP class spearheaded an awareness campaign to help raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation by soliciting donations from the community, creating an ad campaign at the school, and signing up volunteers to shave their heads on the day. Several students signed up to have their hair coloured, while three students — Alexander Menjivar, Darcy Leadoux, and Lexi Boardman — volunteered to be brave and shave. Afterwards the PreCAL CAP class held a sausage sizzle to raise additional funds. Overall the school managed to raise $300.00, which will go towards blood cancer research and support those who suffer from Leukaemia and their families. We wish to give a big thank you to all who participated and donated to the campaign.
Breakfast Club

Where: Room 312
When: Fridays
Time: 8.00am – 8.30am
All welcome

Point Cook Senior Secondary College would also like to sincerely thank the Bendigo Bank for their ongoing support towards our Breakfast Program.

The Breakfast Program has been beneficial in supporting those students in need and also developing relationships between staff and students. It also improves student wellbeing, supporting them in improving their outcomes. It is with the support and generosity of the Bendigo Bank that this program continues to be successful.

Thank you to the Point Cook IGA for the very generous donation that they made to Point Cook Senior Secondary College this term. The funds have been prioritised for developing student facilities in our outdoor area for use before school, at recess, lunchtime and after school.

24 Hour ABSENCE HOTLINE
9395 5157

Email: sterck.karen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au
Late Arrivals - Students are requested to report to the attendance office to obtain a late pass immediately upon arrival.
Early Leave - Students can obtain an early leavers pass either before school or at recess. A written note or phone call from a parent or guardian is required.
Parents are requested to provide confirmation of all student absences via a note from parent/guardian, phone call or email.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2:
13th April – Term 2 Commence
20th April - 6th May – Youth Mental Health First Aid
1st May – Curriculum Day - student free
13th May – Hobsons Bay Division Cross-Country
7th - 8th May – Year 11 College Production
14th May – Hobsons Bay Senior Winter 1 Sports
20th May – Hobsons Bay Intermediate Winter 1 Sports
25th May – College Athletics Day
1st - 5th June – Year 10 & Year 11 Revision Week
4th June – Science Fair
8th June – Queens Birthday Public Holiday
9th - 12th June – Year 10 & Year 11 Mid-Year Exam Week
10th June – GAT all students enrolled in Unit 3 & 4
11th June – Western Region Cross Country
15th - 19th June – Year 10 Work Experience Week
19th June – Hobson Bay Division Senior Winter 2 Sports
22nd June – Hobson Bay Division Girls Football/Boys netball
26th June – Term 2 End

Term 3:
13th July – Term 3 Commence
14th July – Y12 Tertiary info Excursion to Victoria University
20th July – Y11 Fit to Drive Programme
22nd July – Y10 into Y11 Parent Information Evening
10 March 2015

Mr. Darryn Kruse
Principal
Point Cook Senior Secondary College
P.O Box 6520
Point Cook 3030

Dear Darryn,

Point Cook Fire Brigade and Community Good Friday Appeal

For the past 13 years, the Point Cook Fire Brigade has been involved in the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal by collecting in the areas of Point Cook, Sanctuary Lakes and Seabrook. Last year we were fortunate to have been able to donate $30,839 on behalf of the community – our most successful year yet!

We are currently calling for your support to make 2015 another successful year of raising much needed funds for research and equipment for sick children. We are looking for volunteers to assist our collection efforts on the day, by assisting us to door knock within the local area.

We have enclosed a flyer outlining the day and would appreciate it if you could please speak with your students to gauge their interest in supporting this initiative. We would also be grateful if you could advertise the event via your newsletter / noticeboards. Everyone is welcome - it’s a fun day and a great opportunity to come and meet other local families, services and community groups and get together to raise funds for a fantastic cause.

For your background, the day will be coordinated from the Point Cook Fire Station, which will be the starting and finishing point for all participants on April 3. Registration will commence from 8am at the station and collecting will commence at 9am and finish approximately 3pm. Collectors will be transported by bus to and from the station and will be supplied lunch and snacks throughout the day. Please note that collectors under 16 years of age are most welcome, however must be accompanied by an adult.

We will be in touch shortly but in the meantime if you would like to speak with us, please do not hesitate to call myself on 0408 243 523.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Anderson
Point Cook Fire Brigade Good Friday Appeal Committee
The Point Cook Fire Brigade is again collecting for the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal. We are currently looking for people to help us doorknock and collect donations in the Point Cook, Seabrook and Sanctuary Lakes areas.

On the day we will have a bus shuttle for collectors around to strategic areas and have them return to the station throughout the day.

Date: Start
venue: Good Friday, 3rd April 2015
85-93 Dunnings Rd, Point Cook (Melways 207 J4)
Time: Registration from 8am, collection 9am - 3pm or part thereof (lunch supplied)
Contact Person: Bree Nesbitt
Phone: 0431 584 660
Email: goodfridayappeal@pointcookcfa.org.au
Website: www.pointcookcfa.org.au
Facebook: Point Cook Fire Brigade and Community Good Friday Appeal

If you would like to help out on the day, simply pre-register yourself, group, school or club by visiting our site or via email.

There’ll be a kiddies fire truck and Mr Hooker Bear on the grounds of the station.

Proudly supported by CFA Point Cook

Please note that all children attending this day must have adult supervision at all times. All parties attending must register for catering purposes. You will receive a confirmation.
2015 Victorian Titration Competition: Invitation to Participate

February 9, 2015

Dear Head of Science,

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) Victorian Branch invites your school to participate in the 2015 Titration Stakes Competition. Over 700 students from Victorian schools participated in the 2014 competition, and this year we hope to break the record again for the number of students taking part. The overwhelming response to last year’s competition was very positive, and we are sure that your students will enjoy the experience.

All secondary schools in Victoria are invited to participate. The competition is open to students in years 10, 11 and 12. Students will work in groups of three and the experimental work will be carried out in school laboratories. Students may all be from the same year level, or may be from different year levels.

The scientific aim of the State competition is to determine the strength of a weak acid solution of unknown concentration by carrying out a series of acid-base titrations. Teams will be ranked on how close they get to the actual concentration.

By participating in the competition, students will be able to practise their laboratory skills using pipettes, burettes and other glassware, learn to recognise end-points and carry out simple calculations. A time limit of 2 hours is put on the exercise: 15 minutes to become familiarised with the equipment, laboratory safety equipment and exits, etc., 90 minutes to do the experiments and calculate the results, and 15 minutes at the end to tidy up.

The State competition will take place during Term 2. Top teams from the State Competition will go through to the National Competition which will take place later in the year. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in the State Competition and certificates of recognition will be sent to winning schools.

Schools going through to the National Competition will be required to carry out a further series of measurements. Victorian schools have been well represented in the National Competition in the past, and will be in competition with schools from across Australia. The top placed Victorian team in the National Competition will be awarded the St Bernard’s College shield.

Key information is as follows:

- There is no limit on the number of teams schools can sponsor.
- The entry fee per team is $40.00.
- The closing date for entry is March 26, 2015. To register online, go to bit.ly/2015Titration, or use the attached form to pay by cheque.

Solutions will be delivered to participating schools soon after the start of Term 2, so that the competition can be carried out at a time convenient for each school before the end of Term.
2, with results to be submitted to the Victorian Office by June 26, 2015 (the last day of Term 2).

Teams which are selected to take part in the National Competition, based on the results achieved at the State level, will be notified, and will receive the required solutions and instructions in September.

For further information about the Titration Stakes, visit the RACI Chem Central Website at schools.raci.org.au.

The RACI would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of Rowe Scientific in connection with the Titration Competition and recommends schools to consider Rowe for all their scientific laboratory needs.

Good luck!

Dr Chris Thompson
Chair, Chemistry Education Group
RACI Victorian Branch
9 February 2015

Dear Head of Science,

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) is delighted to invite your students to participate in the 2015 Australian National Chemistry (ANCQ) being held on Thursday 23 July.

The ANCQ is a great opportunity to promote chemistry and the role it plays in our society as well as providing a useful benchmarking resource for gauging the understanding your students have of chemistry.

The Quiz consists of 30 multiple choice questions, taking approximately 1 hour, split into four divisions Junior Years 7 – 8, Junior Years 9 – 10, Senior Year 11 and Senior Year 12. It can be taken either online or hard copy.

All students are awarded for their efforts and receive a Certificate of Participation; we anticipate that approximately 40% of entrants will receive Certificates of Merit to acknowledge their efforts at Credit, Distinction and High Distinction levels. Students who obtain a perfect score of 30, receive a Certificate of Excellence and a Plaque.

The ANCQ is a truly International competition with translations into seven different languages. The Quiz attracts over 110,000 entries from over 1,600 schools throughout Australia and 17 neighbouring countries. We anticipate an even greater response for the 2015 Quiz, including entries from Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

For further information on how you can get involved with the ANCQ please contact the RACI Schools Coordinator on 03 9328 2033, or email ancq@raci.org.au

To register for the 2015 quiz please follow the attached instructions.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

ADAM CAWLEY
ANCQ DIRECTOR
Dear Melissa

**50 minute science competition available in pen & paper or online. It’s your choice**

The Big Science Competition is an international competition suitable for students in years 7 to 12. The competition tests critical thinking and problem solving skills - not just science facts. Last year over 50,000 students took part.

Based on teacher feedback, the time to complete the competition has decreased from 60 to 50 minutes, making it more convenient to run in normal class time. The competition can be sat either online or in pen & paper format any time between 20 and 27 May 2015 inclusive. So you now choose the day, time and format of the competition. See our website for full competition details.

After the competition you will receive a diagnostic report showing how each student performed on each question, and how the school group performed against state/territory and national results. The data can provide some insights to inform your teaching and guide future learning.

Student achievement is recognised with certificates detailing their performance, and they could win iTune and movie vouchers just for taking part.

**NEW!** Results in the Big Science Competition will also be used to help select outstanding young women in years 9 and 10 to attend a new science and maths mentoring and residential program launching in 2015. To learn more, sign up to our e-newsletter at asi.edu.au

Cost per student is $7.00 (plus GST) for the online format or $7.50 (plus GST) for the pen & paper format.

Register at [www.asi.edu.au](http://www.asi.edu.au) using your school’s login details below. You can also download sample questions, posters, newsletter articles, website advertisements and more. Registrations close 29 April 2015.

Username: S013424
Password: vFAMPw9DPpPz

Don’t forget to use the enclosed poster to promote the competition in your school. Please contact us at asi@asi.edu.au if you would like more posters sent to your school.

Yours sincerely

Lillian Lesueur
Executive Director
Australian Science Innovations
Dear Mathematics Coordinator,

Your school is invited to participate in

The University of Melbourne – School of Mathematics and Statistics
School Mathematics Competition 2015
On

Wednesday, 6th May, 2015 at 9:15am.

The University of Melbourne - School Mathematics Competition endeavours to identify, reward and encourage true mathematical talent among the school population. The competition is designed so that mathematical insight and ingenuity are needed for success rather than efficiency in tackling routine examples. However, the mathematical knowledge required will be within the present syllabi.

The competition is divided into three divisions defined as follows:
Junior: Years 7 and 8
Intermediate: Years 9 and 10
Senior: Years 11 and 12

In each division, first, second and third prizes valued at $200, $150 and $100 respectively, and an Outstanding Award valued at $60 will be awarded. In addition, the winner of the first prize in each division will be awarded the 'Sir Thomas Cherry' prize. Students will be formally awarded by The University of Melbourne at the prize-giving ceremony on Saturday, 10th October 2015.

Registrations are now open. There will be an entry fee of $3.00 per student (including GST). To register, please visit www.mathscomp.ms.unimelb.edu.au. (NB: Registrations and payment must be made by Friday 1st May 2015).

Any enquiries can be directed to Kerry Hill on 8344-1617. Alternatively, please email mathscomp@ms.unimelb.edu.au.

We look forward to working with you over the next few months.

Yours sincerely,

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