We recently had two new flagpoles installed at the front of the college. This serves a number of purposes, but important amongst them is that it enables us to more effectively acknowledge and recognise the diverse nature of our school and our community. Alongside the Australian flag, a unifying symbol of our respect for our nation, permanently flies the Aboriginal flag. This is in recognition of the significant number of Aboriginal students who attend our school and also signifies our acknowledgement of and respect for the people of the Kulin nation, the traditional owners of the land on which our school has been built.

We have also acquired flags representing the many different countries in which our students have been born, and these flags will be displayed in the school buildings. On our census date of 28 February, we had students enrolled who had been born in 52 different countries, so we have purchased a flag for each of these countries to be displayed around the school. (Of course, if we had looked at the countries of birth of our parent community as well, the number would have been even greater.) It is one of the many delights of being principal of Point Cook Senior to work with such a wonderful mix of cultures, worldviews and beliefs. We have a very diverse student population in these areas, and this has led to a very rich and enriching cultural community at the school.

Currently, the rainbow flag flies from our third flagpole. This is occasioned by our school’s week-long recognition of IDA-HOT (International Days against Homophobia and Transphobia). This has been an opportunity to demonstrate our determination that our school will be a safe school for all our students and that our LGBTQIA (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual) community feel equally valued, supported and welcome at Point Cook Senior.

On 27 May, the Torres Strait Islander flag will be flying on the third flagpole, alongside the Australian national flag and the Aboriginal flag. This will be in recognition of National Reconciliation Week. This week is celebrated across Australia each year between 27 May and 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey—the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision. 27 May marks the anniversary of Australia’s most successful referendum and an important event in our nation’s history. The 1967 referendum saw over 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Commonwealth the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and recognise them in the national census. It is hard to believe that before this date “the first Australians” were not counted as part of the official national population. On 3 June 1992 the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark Mabo decision which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land—that existed prior to colonisation and still exists today. This recognition paved the way for land rights through the Native Title Act.

Diversity is an important element within our school values. In our strategic plan, the last section of our values statement reads as follows:

...the school demonstrates a passion for learning, diversity, creativity and excellence, and nurtures respect, cooperation and independence. It seeks to engage and support students and to foster continuous growth for all.

Our values talk of a “passion” for diversity. We don’t just “recognise” it or “tolerate” it – we celebrate and welcome the differences that make us all special within the common bonds of our shared humanity. I am proud of our school’s focus on this important area, and the way we continue to strive for inclusivity and respect for each other. Our multiple flagpoles are a small but important symbol of this.

Darryn Kruse
2015 POINT COOK SENIOR DEBATING

Two teams are participating from Point Cook Senior this year in the Debating Association of Victoria competition. Their first competition was highly successful. All students spoke eloquently and constructed fascinating arguments responding to current issues.

Our Year 10 B Grade team consists of Harry Ellem, Marko Stanisavljevic, Alexander Eletheriou, Aaron Simon and Emmanuel Richards. All members worked effectively together and prepared and presented three captivating speeches. Special thanks to Marko, Alex and Emmanuel who valiantly spoke for the first time.

Our Year 10 C Grade team consists of Dana Butterworth, Maddie Muller and Sharmaine Robutti, who defeated Bayside P-12 College’s team. Well done to Maddie Muller who received the Best Speaker award for the evening and to Lidia Boniwell for assisting the team with research.

Thank you also to Ms Nicole Marie and Ms Christine Lambrianidis for coaching the students and to Ms Lorraine Agius Curmi for attending.

The GAT

All students completing a Unit 3 and 4 study and a scored VET are required to sit the GAT. The GAT is a General Achievement Test and tests students’ general knowledge and skills in:

- Written communication
- Maths, science and technology
- Humanities, the Arts and social science.

The GAT will be held at the college on **Wednesday 10th June 2015** from **10.00 am to 1.15 pm**.

Students should arrive 45 minutes prior to the GAT to ensure they are prepared and locate their seat number.

All students sitting the GAT will receive a timetable, information notice and a brochure containing information regarding the GAT.

Please be aware of the permitted examination materials and understand that if a student has any electronic equipment on them during the GAT, it could be confiscated for up to three months.

Boys Debating Team
Year 10 Work Experience Program:

The Year 10 Work Experience Program will be held in week 10 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. All Work Experience Arrangement Forms are due by Friday 29 May 2015. If students are having difficulty securing a placement they can speak to their Advisory teacher or Careers Leader/Counsellor Mary Dimech.

WRICA Careers Expo 2015:

21-22 May, Werribee Racing Centre, 2 Bulban Road, Werribee.

WRICA Careers Expo provides an opportunity for students in the community to research and receive quality information regarding employment, apprenticeships, traineeships, industry, TAFE, universities, government organisations and private providers under the one roof.

All Year 10 students will be attending the WRICA Careers Expo on 22 May from 9:00am - 12:00pm.

Students in Year 11 and 12 are encouraged to attend the Expo on Thursday 21 May between 3:30pm - 5:00pm.

Mary Dimech
Careers and Pathways Leading Teacher & Counsellor
Point Cook Senior Secondary College
Ph: 93956490 Fax: 93954964

Point Cook Senior Running Club

On your marks.....get set.....GO! Point Cook Senior Running Club has made a flying start this term. We would like to officially welcome and invite new people to run or walk with us around the outside of the school every Monday and Wednesday after school at 3:30pm. The running club is open to students and teachers of all year levels and don’t worry you don’t need to be an Olympic runner to join! The meeting point is outside the 100s building and you are free to do as many laps of the school as you like. It’s a fun and casual way to keep fit. If you need more information you can ask Ms Szechenyi or Nature Stone (Year 12). Hope to see you all there.
Western Metropolitan Region Swimming Carnival
It was a very early start for our swimming team. They arrived to Point Cook Senior at 8:00am to travel to Kardinia Park in Geelong for a 9:30am start. The weather forecast was meant to consist of strong winds and rain. Thankfully there was no rain and the pool was heated to keep the students warm. Point Cook Senior not only got their first swimming medal ever but achieved six for the whole day. Special mentions go to: Ariana Eruela-Chase who was awarded 1st place in the 15-20 year old individual medley with a time of 2:45.84, 2nd place in the 12-20 year old 100 metres backstroke with a time of 1:18.43, 2nd place in the 12-20 year old 100 metres butterfly with a time of 1:14.11 and 3rd place in the 15 year old 50 metres butterfly with a time of 33.30; Hayan Azchoul, 3rd place in the 15 year old 50 metres breaststroke with a time of 38.98; Sam De Pasquale, 3rd place in the 17 year old 50 metres butterfly with a time of 32.08. The rest of the team also competed in other individual events and also the 50 metres freestyle relay but unfortunately didn’t place. All students that participated did a fantastic job for making it to the Western Metropolitan level, representing Point Cook Senior for the first time.

Extracurricular Activities

**Botanical Society** – gardening and sustainability at PCS Monday Lunchtimes / Green Room

**Guitar Lessons** – Tuesdays / Sign up Required!

**Manga Club** – for lovers of comics, manga and anime Wednesday Lunchtimes / 502

**The Breakfast Club** – a free healthy breakfast and chance to meet some other students every Friday morning from 8:00am

**Running Club** – Wednesday afternoons 3:30pm – meet in the 100s staffroom for a friendly walk/run with staff and students.

**Scorpion Soccer** – Lunchtime indoor soccer competition – see Ms Carstairs for information

**Have a great idea for a new club? See Ms Newman or your student leaders**
Motorised bikes
Recently, I have noticed a few motorised bikes being ridden to school by students and it was timely that I was speaking to a police officer about these vehicles to get his take on them. I was informed that apart from the obvious safety concerns about the speed at which they travel, there are a few other things parents and students should be aware of.

Most of these types of bikes are technically classified as motorbikes and when they are being ridden on the road or footpath, students can be fined for a number of things including not having a licence and not wearing a helmet. The other risk students are taking is that they will be prevented from getting their licence when they do apply for it, until they are 21 years old.

The best thing to do would be to leave the motorised bike in the garage and get some exercise on a regular bike!

Compass Parent Portal
At PCSSC we are really happy with how the use of our Compass portal is progressing as staff and parents start to use it more and more to develop the critical partnership between home and school. As most parents have found, this is where we are now communicating information about five-weekly progress reports, general news about students, etc. and we will be publishing first semester reports on the portal in a few weeks’ time.

From Monday 18 May we will be using the parent portal for absence approval also. As usual, when your child is absent from school without the college knowing, you will receive an SMS saying “STUDENT NAME is marked absent as of 10:00am. Details & approval at pointcookenior.vic.jdlf.com.au or email attendance@pointcookenior.vic.edu.au”. You can then either click on the link to log into the portal or use the email address to let us know of the absence.

If you have not yet logged in to familiarise yourself with Compass, please do so soon. If you do not have your log on details, you can either use the access recovery function from the compass link on the PCSSC website (pointcookenior.vic.jdlf.com.au) or call the college on 9395 9271. Please note you will be required to answer a security question.

It’s important to note that you should keep your log-on and password details secret as they can be used to approve absences, get reports and approve excursions for your child and these are all functions that should remain with the parent or guardian at all times.

As always, we welcome feedback about new initiatives so if you have any ideas or issues you are finding with using the parent portal, please let me know by emailing sleep.shaun.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

Shaun Sleep
Assistant Principal

Psychology Excursion
On 20 April, the Year 10s and 11s studying VCE Psychology went to Scienceworks for an excursion. The students explored the Sportsworks and Think Ahead exhibits to get a better understanding of the human body’s nervous system. Students were able to experience different activities to do with the ‘flight or fight’ response, homeostasis and visual perception. Other exhibits included the latest ‘Alice in Wonderland’ which included an Ames Room illusion.

By Indiana Sheppard and Cody Buttigieg
Manga Club Students’ Art Work
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.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Whenever students are absent from school parents can notify us via:

- Compass Parent Portal – Log in at http://pointcooksecondary.vic.jdlf.com.au/ or visit the Point Cook Senior website for a link. Once logged in parents can approve absences or set up an approval in advance.
- Email – send absence approvals to attendance@pointcooksenior.vic.edu.au (please note this email should come from the parent listed email address nominated on the student’s enrolment).
- Phone - 9395 5157

Late Arrivals – Students arriving late should sign in at the kiosk in the front office foyer and then head straight to class. This late arrival will still need to be approved by the college or a parent.

Early Leave – Students leaving early will need to sign out through the attendance officer in the LRC. Students are requested to provide written or verbal approval from parent/guardian prior to any early departure.

IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2:

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
23rd July – Y12 Melbourne University Biology Excursion
27th - 30th July – Course Counselling Y10 into Y11
29th July – Y11 into Y12 Parent Information Evening
29th July – Y10 Course Confirmation Day
31st July – Course Selection Forms Due Y10 into Y11
JUNE 4TH 2015
PCSSC
SCIENCE FAIR

Student’s Major Science Project
Join us while we celebrate our year 10 Science student’s hard work as they demonstrate their understanding of the Scientific Method and their personal interests in Science.
FOOD DRIVE – CAP Project

Hi,

We are Tamarit and Jason. We are currently in Year 10.

As part of our CAP project, we are organising a FOOD DRIVE for the Salvation Army community organisation.

This food drive will benefit people within our society that are less fortunate than us – Mums, Dads, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, cousins!

Please support us by donating some food items to our ‘boxes’ in the LRC.

Tinned Foods
- Tinned fruit/fruit salad
- Tinned vegetables (e.g. peas, carrots, corn, and beetroot).
- Packet and tinned soups.
- Tinned spaghetti and baked beans.
- Tinned tuna and other fish, tinned ham, pre-canned meals, etc.

Treats
- Chocolate, bags of lollies
- Sweet and chocolate biscuits (e.g. Tim Tams, Mint Slice)
- Savoury biscuits (e.g. Barbecue Shapes, Sakata, Saladas)
- Potato chips
- Popcorn (pre-popped or microwavable).
- Fruit cups (e.g. SPC), jelly crystals,
- Ice Magic, cake mix, Shake ‘n’ Bake pancake mix, jam, honey, Vegemite

Beverages
- UHT milk
- Tea, coffee, sugar Milo, Quik
- Cordial, soft drink
- Long-life juice

Cereals and Carbohydrates.
- Breakfast cereals and muesli
- Instant noodles, two-minute noodles, instant pasta packs
  Rice, pasta/spaghetti, pasta sauce (e.g. Dolmio).
- Rice sauce (e.g. Kan Tong, Chicken Tonight)
- Muesli bars

Extras for Christmas
- Bonbons
- Santa sacks (e.g. Cadbury)
- Christmas puddings
  Long-life or boxed custard

HANDY HINTS
- Ring-pull tins are preferred!
  Tins with ring-pull lids are most helpful, as not all people receiving the food will necessarily have access to a can opener.

- Long expiry dates please
  Please ensure foods donated are non-perishable and their expiry dates are well into next year.

- Please avoid ‘no-name’ brands
  Wherever possible, please refrain from purchasing no-name brands as people will be receiving these goods as a gift. This is a simple way to make our ‘battling’ Aussies feel a little extra special at Christmas.
Parenting Teenagers who WORRY TOO MUCH

Does anxiety stop your teen enjoying life?

Come along to find out more about anxiety and strategies to help your teen to worry less.

The presentation will include:

• How does anxiety affect teenagers?
• Learn strategies you can use and support your teen to help them cope
• Understand when and where to go for further support

Where: Featherbrook Community Centre, 33-35 Windorah Drive, Point Cook

When: Wednesday 27th May 2015

Time: Registration at 6:45pm for a 7pm start

Please register your interest with reception staff at the Youth Resource Centre on 8734 1355 before the event.