

THE SPARK



Newsletter of Springside West Secondary College

Issue 01 - February 2021



Some of our P.E teachers on Photo day

Key dates

19 February	Photos Catch Up Day	01 March	Italian Week begins
22 February	Year 8 & 10 Immunisations	08 March	Labour Day - Public Holiday
24 February	Year 7 Camp	15 March	Year 7 Immunisation

Key items in this issue

Principal's Report	2
Welcome back	2
Tutor program	2
Face masks	2
Oval upgrade	2
Covered walkways	3
Buses	3
Bike safety	3
School tours	3
Reading	4
Victorian High Achievers Program Term 4 2020	5
Reflections	5
Maths program	5
VHAP - English	5
Tech Heroes School Holiday's club	6
High School Musical Jr 2021 Cast List	9
Staff Profiles	10

Principal's Report

Welcome back

I would like to welcome all parents, guardians and students back for the 2021 year. We are hopeful of a year with few disruptions enabling us to provide a full onsite program for the year.

Tutor program

We are currently in the process of setting up a tutor program for students across the school in line with departmental funding. The tutor program will have the aim of identifying students who have shown signs of falling behind during the remote learning phase in 2020 and providing them with additional support. The program will be targeted for specific students, and you will be notified if your child has been identified as a student who would benefit from this program.

Face masks

We have now reached a point where we almost have no masks left to give to students if they forget to bring a mask in the morning. Given that the law in Victoria mandates indoor mask wearing currently, it may be the case that we have to ask some students to go home to retrieve a mask if they attend school without a mask and our supply is exhausted.

Can you please check to ensure that your son/daughter has a mask when they leave for school each morning. This will help to ensure that all students can attend the school without disruption.

Oval upgrade

You may have noticed that the school is undertaking work to complete the school oval and bring it up to an acceptable standard for use by students. We hope to have the oval completed by later this year and look forward to it being a resource for students for many years to come.



Covered walkways

On the first day of the term this year and the following Friday we had significant rainfall during the school day. Regrettably many students became very wet as a result of trying to walk between buildings where there is no covered walkway at the school. During the site meetings in the construction phase of building the school I made repeated requests for the covered walkways to be extended to all buildings but was advised that there were insufficient funds. Last year the college applied for funds to complete the walkways in funding packages that were offered, but we were unsuccessful.

I regret and apologise for the inconvenience caused to students by the absence of these walkways. As a school we will continue to seek funds to complete the walkways for the benefit of our students.

Buses

I have been made aware of concerns expressed by parents about the 461 bus service leaving the school less than five minutes after the final bell. I have begun a process of liaising with the PTV and will keep you updated with any success we have in changing the times to a more suitable time where students can pack up at the end of the day and get to the bus safely.

Bike safety

A number of parents have contacted the school to express concern for the safety of students riding bikes to and from the school. Students are asked to show great care as they ride to school, to never ride within the school grounds, and are reminded that helmets are compulsory under the law of Victoria when you are riding a bike. Victoria Police have indicated to me that they intend issuing fines and cautions to students in our area who are not wearing a helmet as they travel to school. Please reinforce this message at home.

School tours

To further engage with our parent community I am conducting a series of tours of the school for parents of students around a theme during 2021. The first of these tours will be on Friday the 19th of February, it will involve a one hour tour of select school buildings and will have a focus on the school English program. Bookings are essential if you would like to attend and you can book at 8357 7100. The tour after that will be on the 26th of March and will focus on the Humanities learning area.

John Goodman | Foundation Principal

Reading

Dear Parents and Students,

As we start a new school year, the English Department at SWSC wanted to take a minute to remind our parents and students of the **importance of reading at home each night**, which should form part of your child's daily homework routine.

Students have been asked to **read a minimum of 20 minutes per night**. This should be a text that they find interesting and engaging and could be either a novel, the newspaper or a magazine article. All students also have access to our Library to borrow a book to take home and read.

Science shows us that **reading promotes brain development**, memory function, word fluency and comprehension. Reading also helps to develop higher levels of focus and concentration, **critical and analytical thinking skills** as well as improving creativity and writing skills.

While reading is an integral part of what we do in the English faculty, literacy skills are imperative to every subject. Our own school data has shown that reading and comprehension is an area that requires additional attention in order to **improve the outcomes of students in all subject areas**.

At this stage, reading at home is not something that teachers will be explicitly monitoring as a set homework task, so we do require the **support of parents** to be encouraging our students to make this a part of their child's daily routine. We greatly appreciate your support, and trust that our shared dedication towards **fostering a love of reading** will see our students improving in all subject areas.

Demi Farrugia | English Faculty Leader



Victorian High Achievers Program Term 4 2020

Reflections

Maths program

Yashmine Bhullar 9C

The Victorian High Achiever Program was a great learning experience! The program challenged my knowledge and further extended my learning. It allowed me to discover new ways to efficiently and effectively solve enrichment tasks. I was able to connect with like-minded people and focus on critical thinking, problem-solving and creativity. Overall, the program was beneficial and fascinating.



VHAP - English

Sienna Darmanin 8L

In term four last year, I was able to participate in the Victorian High Achiever Program. The program is a great experience where you can extend your knowledge in different ways, learn about your capabilities, and focus on improving specific areas. Completing this course enabled me to think about English and other areas of learning in new ways. I was challenged by the lessons but found it overall enjoyable. I believe this program helped me to use prior knowledge and strengths in ways I couldn't before. I found support from the other class members and grew more confident both academically and socially. The knowledge I gained from the classes has already been helpful, but I am excited to see what opportunities this might create in the future. I am grateful to have been given this experience, and I would recommend this program to anyone who gets the opportunity.



Prisha Redhu 8C

The VHAP program was fun, and it was interesting to meet people from other schools whose levels were similar to mine. The tasks weren't that hard but required a great amount of analysis. We would get work that we would have to complete by the next lesson so that we could be prepared. The teacher was nice and listened to everyone's opinions. I liked the way we would discuss everything and work through the lessons together instead of just listening to the teacher telling us what it was about. The interactions were nice, and I was lucky that I was chosen for this awesome program.



Dean Cove | STEM Leader

Tech Heroes School Holiday's club



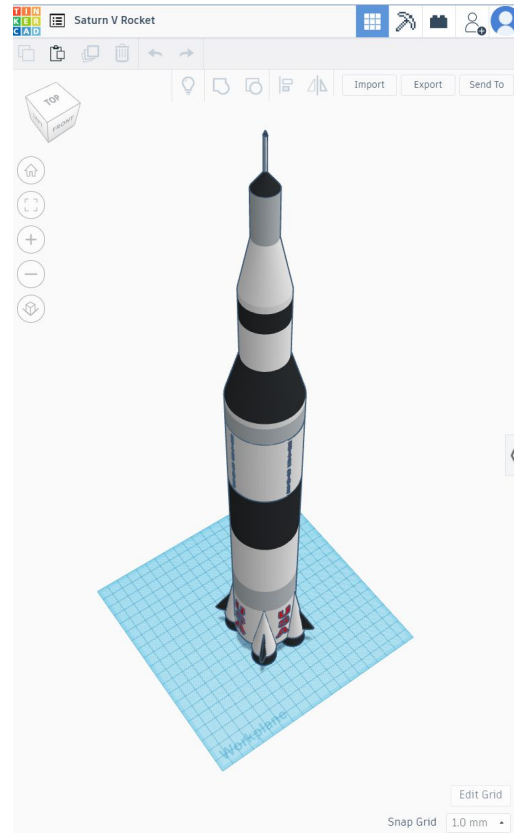
During the summer holidays I subscribed to the “Tech Heroes School Holiday's club”, run under the support of City of Melton Libraries and WesternBACE. I participated in the 3D Design, Robotics and Programming tracks.

Program activities were created to present kids & parents with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of STEM, through a series of self-paced activities. We had access to the robotic kits for a week. Activities were aimed to create an inclusive learning opportunity with challenges able to be completed within a few hours and easily scaled up or down to suit our skills and abilities with the support of WesternBACE youth STEM Squad Team members via a virtual help desk.

Participants were encouraged to submit challenges to the competition, where submitted artifacts were checked and judged to gauge our understanding and innovation capabilities. I submitted a 3D design of Tesla's CyberTruck and several programming projects for Microbit microcontroller, notably; Flappy bird game and Distress signal beacon that utilized two microbic cards as Transmitter and Receiver. I complimented my work with a demonstration video, where my sister and I showcased how the distress signal beacon could be used. The Microbit project was a great success with the judging committee and had earned me the Robotics Challenge's award (age group 12-15 Years).

Melton City's Mayor, Councillor Kathy Majdlik, presented the awards and had a commemorative photo with each of the winners. It was an honor to meet her in person and to represent SWSC in the enticing competition.

Yehia Bassal 9B



In early January, the Melton council along with Western Bace conducted the STEM Heroes Program which had many modules. I participated in the 3D designing module. It introduced beginners like me to 3D Design through an online CAD (Computer Aided Design) software called Tinkercad. We started off by exploring the software and made simple designs such as a dice and mug. The final project was to design our own or make a replica of a vehicle. I made a replica of the Saturn V Rocket, a launch vehicle by NASA. I made the rocket by using basic shapes such as cylinders and cones. I then used text and colour features to add the final details. I learnt to use functions such as aligning and mirroring objects which I can use to design more things in the future.

I really enjoyed being part of this program throughout the holidays and I think it is a great way to have fun while learning.

Nikita Dhar 8C



Hello my name is Atif and I'm in 7C. During the last school holidays I had participated Tech Heroes January School Holidays program - Advanced Coding Challenge - Introduction to Coding with Python (Ages 10-15) and STEM HEROES: Coding Challenges (Ages 12-15) using programming platform Scratch organised by Melton city libraries. In Advanced coding with Python, we learned coding to write a program that can have a conversation with a computer, make you guess what number the computer is thinking, play rock paper scissors and one that can tell how long you have lived in seconds. In the Coding challenge with Scratch I had to make games in scratch like Flappy Fish similar to popular game Flappy bird, a game name Frog Frenzy which makes a frog dodge falling trees, a game name Education claw machine that you have to collect as much books as you can in 60 seconds and a program name Covid logger which register visitors details to a facility. At the end of the course, participants submitted their final programs for competition. I won the prize for the STEM HEROES: Coding Challenges and received my certificate and prize from honorable mayor of Melton city council.

Atif Ridwan 7C

High School Musical Jr 2021 Cast List

Congratulations to the following students who will be participating in SWSC's first school production.

Student	Class	Character	Student	Class	Character
Max Mahajan	10H	Troy Bolton	Khushi Randhawa	8A	Brainiacs
Gage Neil	9C	Zeke Baylor	Josey Spiteri	8C	Brainiacs
Jack Taugofie	9J	Chad Danforth	Evelyn Galdamez	8K	Brainiacs
Isabella Nastevska	10E	Sharpay Evans	Gabi Snook-Villalobos	9G	Brainiacs
Lucas Humpalik	8H	Ryan Evans	Nikita Dhar	8C	Thespians
Hannah Shayer	10B	Kelsi Neilsen	Georgia Smith	8K	Thespians
Daniel Van Der Merwe	10C	James	Savita Joshi	8C	Skater Dudes
Dakota White	10E	Cyndra	Ava Hutchinson	8C	Skater Dudes
Isabel Schneider	9C	Susan	Kimberley Mahaka	8K	Skater Dudes
Riti Sharma	8C	Cathy	Ishi Valete	9E	Skater Dudes
Maree Mamalis	10F	Gabriella Montez	Charlotte Abraham	8A	Cheerleaders
Andrea Gail Rueda	10H	Taylor McKessie	Lillian Grant	8D	Cheerleaders
Emilija Sabec	9C	Martha Cox	Georgia Abraham	8E	Cheerleaders
Jaxon Polzella	9J	Kratnoff	Phoebe Fenech	8H	Cheerleaders
Sam Ermyas	7C	Jack Scott	Rocco Fiorio	8D	Jocks
Kristian Spoljar	9J	Ripper	Atif Ridwan	7C	Jocks
Dean Nikoloski	7C	Mongo	Devran Beyhan	7F	Jocks
Madeleine Caruana	11B	Ms. Darbus	Karam Al Qas Eshaq	10H	Jocks
Matthew Kovco	10G	Coach Bolton	Ishan Parbhakar	7C	Jocks
Dawn Sanchez	10H	Ms. Tenny	Yuvraj Singh Bhullar	7C	Jocks
Safa Pagarkar	10E	Science Decathlon Moderator			

Show Dates

Wednesday August 25th 7pm

Thursday August 26th 7pm

Friday August 27th 7pm

Brooke Middleton | Performing Arts Coordinator and KLA Leader

Staff Profiles



Michael Bassett

Subject area and role within the school:
Mathematics; Year 7 Homegroup Teacher

Previous school: Portland Secondary College

Reason(s) I became a teacher: I discovered I really enjoy helping others learn and sharing my passion for Maths and Science with students.

Favourite foods (and drink): Probably Thai food – especially a good Thai Panang Curry. Some might also say I'm obsessed with tea... I prefer to see it as a healthy passion!

Favourite interests away from work: Video games, board games and playing squash

An interesting fact about me: I've lived in two other countries for short periods of time: Denmark (2 months) and Singapore (4-5 months).



Kylie Staropoli

Subject area and role within the school:
Reception

Previous schools you have worked in:
Tarneit P-9 College

Reason(s) I became a teacher / education support: I love working with kids. I enjoy the overall school environment and the diversity and opportunities it brings.

Favourite foods: Chocolate and more Chocolate!

Favourite interests away from work:
Spending time with my family and my puppy Jack.

An interesting fact about you: I have 3 children aged 18, 16, & 12