

# Newsletter

Newsletter 4/2017

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#### 2018 Term Dates

Term 1: 30 Jan to 31 Mar

Term 2: 16<sup>th</sup> Apr to 29<sup>th</sup> Jun

Term 3: 16<sup>th</sup> Jul – 20<sup>th</sup> Sep

Term 4: 8<sup>th</sup> Oct – 21<sup>st</sup> Dec

## **Campus Contacts**

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Mornington 5977 2976

Hastings 5979 1398

## **Absentee Reporting**

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Mornington 0439 014 666

Hastings 0447 040 999

#### Links

Advance College Web Site

VCAL FAQ's

**Youth Central** 

### Principal's Message

As 2017 draws to an end it is a good time to reflect on the year and our achievements. Our students should be very proud of themselves as they have done really well throughout the year. Their participation and commitment in all of the curriculum areas was a credit to them. I would also like to thank our wonderful teaching team. They have taken on a range of challenges and have worked tirelessly to support our students both academically and with their wellbeing.

#### A few statistics . . .

Across the school year we have had 84 students enrol with 38 at Rosebud, 22 at Mornington and 24 at Hastings. The gender balance was 41 female and 43 male students. We had 13 students in senior level, 34 in intermediate level and 37 in foundation level.

Student completion rates have been pleasing with 37 achieving their full VCAL certificate and 41 achieving a part Certificate or Statement of Attainment. Most of those who did not finish their VCAL certificate will have the opportunity to do so in 2018.

Some of the highlights of the year include the annual camp in Melbourne, a range of local excursions, the music and art programs and a range of activities supporting our local community.

One significant change to our College was, at the start of the year, the introduction the Berry Street Education Model. All staff attended a four day program on how the Model works and how to implement it to our students. It is a continuous process of development and has been embraced by staff very positively. This has been a major catalyst for student engagement, positive behaviour, and student/staff support.

Another major highlight was our student graduation celebration. Held at the Hastings Campus it was attended by more than 120 students, family members and friends. The event was enhanced by our 'College band' - five students who presented three items and, apart from some minor technical issues, acquitted themselves admirably.

On behalf of all at Advance I wish everyone a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to 2018 being as successful as this year has been with even greater opportunities for our students.

Steve Wright - Principal

(steve.w@advance.vic.edu.au)

# Term 4 News

VCAL Health and Wellbeing Day

On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> of October we held the Advance VCAL Health and Wellbeing Day, an event supported by the partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services (MPYS).

There were several topics delivered by guest speakers throughout the day which included alcohol and drug harm minimisation (Peninsula Health), sexual health, diversity/LGBTQI and 'Life Choices'.

We also had two activities facilitated by trained staff which included a therapeutic African drumming workshop as well as guided mindfulness, both promoting positive mental health.

Due to receiving fantastic feedback from the students, staff and guest speakers, we will ensure this becomes an annual event!

2018 Enrolments are open now. New student enrolments are being accepted now. Students who are returning will be contacted prior to the end of the Year.

## Term 1 Activities

- Food Handlers Course- Thurs 1st Feb
- Clean Up Australia Day- Tues 6th March
- Labour Day- Mon 12th March
- Harmony Day- Wed 21st March
- Activity/Beach Day/Term Ends- Thurs 29th March
- Don't forget to check out our school website www.advancecollege.vic.edu.au and Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/AdvanceVCAL/
- Advance College can facilitate accredited training in short courses such as First Aid, CPR, Barista and Food Handling. It also runs beginner computer classes and career guidance programs. Please check www.advance.vic.edu.au or call your local campus for further details.

# **DID YOU KNOW?**



Giving them the facts is the safest bet

Gambling is heavily promoted and more accessible than ever before. There's growing concern over the way children and young people are influenced by positive gambling messages through sport, advertising, online games and social media. These can give your child the wrong idea about how gambling actually works, making it seem like an easy, fun and normal way to make quick money. We know these kinds of attitudes can lead to difficulties down the track.

The good news is you're in a great position to help your child develop a balanced understanding of how gambling actually works, and you don't need to be an expert on the topic to start a conversation. Health experts say talking about gambling with teenagers is just as important as talking about other situations where risk may be involved – like driving and drinking alcohol.

Teenagers are reportedly five times more likely than adults to experience harm from gambling. Because gambling can become an issue for young people, we suggest talking to them sooner rather than later. That way they'll have a better chance of understanding the risks involved, what might be influencing their thinking and the limited chances of winning.

Opportune times to have these conversations include when you're watching sport together and you see lots of betting ads, when betting is heavily promoted like during the Spring Racing Carnival, or when they're starting to earn their own money.

For more information, including ways to start conversations about gambling with your child, go to www.lovethegame.vic.gov.au