Dear Parents,

This is the last edition of our school newsletter for 2015. I cannot believe how quickly the school year has again progressed and that the holiday season is almost upon us! At the same time, it is very rewarding for us to reflect upon the outstanding results of our school and the wonderful events and challenging programs successfully completed in 2015.

The energy at Sandringham College is unmistakeable and as a whole school community working together we can be extremely proud of our shared success. We have witnessed the completion of our year 7 & 8 learning centre and science wing; new fence and additional refurbishment for the arts area to be soon completed.

We look forward to our continued building and refurbishment program in 2016 at both the 7 -10 and senior campuses. It is also very rewarding to witness the continued enhancements of the Sports and Science Academies.

Closure of Beaumaris Campus 2015

The official event to formally recognise the closure of the Beaumaris campus was both a wonderful and heartfelt occasion. The evening led by Campus Principal Suzanne Reinhardt offered an opportunity for current and ex staff; students and community members to visit the school and reflect upon its successes.

It was very apparent the campus was highly successful and influenced positively so many lives. The speeches especially noted the caring and family nature of campus. George Greig, who played such a huge role in assisting Suzanne spoke eloquently about the history, and journey of the campus.

We look forward to working with the Department of Education and Training and the new Beaumaris Secondary College to bring about a new school for its community and a strong state school secondary partnership with Sandringham College.

Congratulations Class of 2015

I extend my congratulations for all students who completed their studies this year at our school. The class of 2015 has achieved outstanding results and have been wonderful ambassadors for our school. As a cohort they have been excellent to work with and have been strongly supportive of each other and our school. I look forward to providing greater detail in the future of their excellent results.

Congratulations Year Seven 2016

As part of the year 6 to year 7 transition program we welcomed year seven students and parents to our school. It is always a wonderful day to be part of the transition program organised by Steven Dixon.

Our Primary schools have indeed completed fantastic work in preparing students for the next phase in the learning journeys.

Congratulations to the Great Vic Bike Ride Students, Staff & Parents

I would also like to add my congratulations to staff, students and volunteer parents helpers on their successful completion of the Great Vic Bike Ride last week.

The riders completed over 500 kilometres battling all kinds of weather conditions. I am also pleased to welcome our successful bike riders back home and acknowledge their amazing efforts!

Thankyou to our Community Leaders

Sandringham College is very fortunate and honored because it has such a strong parent and community support network.

We take this opportunity to thank our College President, Stephen Peacock, Parents Association President, Katherine Kirby and both College Council and Parent Association members. In 2015, they have provided our students and staff with outstanding support and continued to develop strong links across all parts of our community.

Once more I acknowledge the fantastic work of our College staff and Principal Class. They have worked tirelessly for our college and cared so deeply for our students and have helped us to achieve such outstanding academic results.

May I wish season’s greetings to you all. May you have a happy time with those you care for and those you love.

Be safe on the roads and we look forward to continuing the path we have chosen next year.

Allen McAuliffe, College Principal
It has been a very busy term at the senior campus, with the completion of the year 12 examinations as well as the year 11 examinations and the Headstart program. The Headstart program runs for two weeks and is designed to assist students with their transition in to Year 11 and Year 12, to give them a “taste” of any new subjects and to provide them with preparatory work / stimulus for the 2016 year.

The program was again very successful, with students already fully engaged in their subjects. Students not only participated in their VCE and VCAL classes, but also had seminars in study skills, presented by Elevate Education, as well as wellbeing sessions, such as the problems associated with Cyber Safety, a “You the Man” presentation and First Aid.

There was also musical entertainment and sporting activities at lunchtimes and even a free barbecue on the second last day of the program!

Congratulations to Makayla Bulte on being amongst the elite 8 students selected as finalists for the VCAA VCE Leadership Awards 2015.

Makayla was presented with a plaque, certificate and Lenovo device by the Minister for Education and Deputy Premier James Merlino in a ceremony at Parliament House. Makayla has been an outstanding role model of leadership for students at Sandringham College and we are both thrilled and proud that she has been recognised State-wide for her contribution and efforts to “make a difference” in the community. As a member of the graduating class of 2015, we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. For more information follow link:


The year 12 VCAA results are released on Monday December 14th and we are anticipating many pleasing results for the Class of 2015.

I look forward to sharing these fantastic results with the school community in the New Year. Whatever the outcome that was achieved, we hope that the cohort feel satisfied that they did their best and can now move forward into the future with many options.

Jeni Ritterman will be available until Thursday afternoon December 17th to assist students who would like to make changes to their preferences for University and TAFE. Remember that there is only a small window of opportunity to change preferences, so it is advisable to seek advice straight away, should you need it.

Please have a safe, relaxing and refreshing Christmas and summer break. I look forward to welcoming you all to a new School Year in 2016.

Vivienne McElwee, Senior Campus Principal
Senior Campus Head Start
We have had a productive and energetic Head Start on the Senior Campus where students have been immersed in their VCE and VCAL studies and participated in a range of wellbeing and skills sessions. Generally staff have been impressed with the manner in which the senior students have approached their new studies.

Peter Cornica from Finger Print Me Academy ran a parent session titled ‘Parents Hold the Key’ which was extremely valuable. The session focussed on the changing employment landscape and how parents can make a crucial difference in the employment prospects of their child. Peter had seven pieces of advice:

1. Students should parallel work and study
2. It is important to get young people into the workforce early - eg part time job at 15
3. Must have realistic career goals
4. Networks need to be developed, utilised and maintained.
5. Presentation skills are paramount
6. Speak to employers and seek industry advice
7. The job market may mean young people ultimately have to move to where the work is.

Language News : French and Indonesian
Bonjour!  Selamat Pagi!

Having studied French and Indonesian for one semester each this year, Year 7 students have submitted their selection for language choice next year. Students then continue with their language of choice for years 8 and 9 after which they may decide whether or not they wish to continue with their chosen language.

VCE students will be receiving their results in the next week so we wish them every success and happiness in their future career choices. We are also sure that they will be able to put their language skills to good use in their future travels or work.

Bonnes vacances à tous!

Selamat berlibur semuanya!

Happy holidays to all!

Barbara Hamilton, Languages Co-ordinator

Special Provision- Applying for VCE Special Exam Arrangements
Students may be eligible for Special Arrangements for their SACs and external exams if they can demonstrate that their ability to complete their exams has been impaired due to an ongoing severe health issue, a physical impairment or disability. These arrangements can consist of rest breaks, extra writing or reading time, computer use or separate room, depending upon the decision made by a VCAA medical panel.

Students who are interested in applying should now begin to collect any relevant documentation.

A form for those requiring a current medical history or report can be emailed.

VCAA’s definition for granting arrangements for those with a learning disability need to have an average or above average IQ (over 90), they are looking at a disability and not a learning difficulty. The IQ test should be administered by a registered psychologist during the student’s secondary school years. The school can administer a reading test.

For those undertaking a Unit 3/4 subject, medical evidence should be provided at the beginning of 2016. There is an application booklet and there may also be some tests to be completed before the school submits applications to the VCAA by the beginning of March.

Sheryl Burgess, VCE Exam Coordinator/Student Support
Phone: 8599-0516 during the school term
Email: burgess.sheryl.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

SMS registration now open for ATAR and VCE Results
Registration are now open for the ATAR and VCE Results. Students can register to receive their study scores and ATAR by SMS on the day that results are released - Monday December 14. Follow the instructions on the VTAC website, in the VTAC Guide, or on the back page of the VCAA Exams Navigator. For more information insert the following link into your browser:  http://www.vtac.edu.au/results-offers/y12-atar.html

Students will register for this service using their VCE student number and Results Service PIN. For more information, refer to the Quick Reference Guide (on our website).

VET Programs
Students who have enrolled in a VET subject which is being taught externally will receive a letter from the Registered Training Organisation (Box Hill TAFE, Chisholm, Holmesglen or Victoria University) outlining the start dates for 2016.

If you do not receive this information, please come and see me on the first school day in 2016.

Anna Irminger, VET Co-ordinator
Achievement • Creativity • Independence • Integrity • Respect

The staff of Sandringham College wish all students and their families a safe and enjoyable festive season and a happy and prosperous new year.

Trauma Counselling in response to Paris Terrorist Attacks

Counselling suggestions have been released by the Australian government for addressing children and young peoples’ responses in relation to traumatic events such as the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Children and young people will have seen and heard about the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris on Friday 13 November 2015.

The authorities in France and countries around the world will help to support the people who have been impacted by this event. Please follow the link for full information.

Sandringham 7 – 10 Principal’s Report

As the 2015 school year concludes I believe all our members of our school community can reflect on the many achievements within the 7-10 campus. Certainly our students should be celebrated for a year which I know was both positive and rewarding. We thank them for their ongoing commitment to ensuring Sandringham College is such a successful and happy learning environment.

The end of the year sees a succession of events which acknowledge our students’ significant contributions. These occasions have included our Year 10 Celebration Assembly, attended by the proud parents of our Year 10 students, and the Year 10 Formal, which was a terrific night of performance and dance thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Student achievement was celebrated at last week’s Presentation Night as a wide range of student awards were announced. We applaud all our students for their efforts this year, which has resulted in some outstanding achievements both in and out of the classroom. A recent example of this has been the Great Victorian Bikeride, where once again 60 of our students took on the challenge of a 10 day ride on Victorian roads, strongly supported by dedicated teachers and parents.

Now we look forward to 2016. The excitement about next year has been rising as we have started classes in the new Learning Centre. We already knew this facility is a very special one, but to see it come alive with active learning and special events, such as the November music soiree, is just wonderful. Another reason for the excitement was our chance to welcome our 150 Year 7 students of 2016 on Orientation Day.

The staff at Sandringham 7-10 have once again ensured our students have every opportunity to engage in such a wonderful range of programs. I thank each of them as they give so much of their time and do so as they have the additional tasks of moving across new campuses or into buildings.

I also thank our parents for their support and appreciation. This includes the many wonderful volunteers who give their time for PTF or programs such as the Reading program, the Great Victorian Bike ride or our new Robotics initiative.

Of course, finally we thank our students, who represent our college so well in the broader community and are responsible for the understanding that Sandringham College is an outstanding educational setting.

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.
Russell Watson, Campus Principal

Sandringham 7 – 10 Campus Library

As the end of the year approaches, students are selecting the books they want to borrow for the summer holidays.

Our students continue to read a variety of quality fiction and are very well informed about current fiction. We have frequent requests to buy particular titles and authors.

An article in the Weekend Herald Sun, [October 17, 2015] quoted that in a recent Dymocks survey, 97.3% of the 1072 teenagers who were surveyed said they preferred paper books to e books but that they used the internet to find out what to read and to post comments about what they are reading. Our students are part of this culture.

The 2015 Gold Inky was awarded to Gabrielle Tozer’s ‘The Intern’ and the Silver Inky went to Rainbow Rowell’s ‘Fangirl’. Both these books were popular with Sandy students.

Book Club continues to meet weekly and lunchtimes are always busy. A vocabulary tree is now in the centre of the library. Students were asked to ‘donate a word and its meaning’. It has generated a lot of interest in words.

Library staff look forward to working with students again in 2016 to promote and encourage a love of reading.

Kerry Holmquest, Years 7-10 Librarian
Year 7 & 8

It is difficult to believe we have already reached the end of another busy year. I am very proud of our Year 7 and 8 students and the outstanding work they have completed throughout the year, both in and out of the classroom. They continue to display our college values with pride and I am sure they will continue to do so as they become Year 8 and 9 students. It was wonderful to celebrate student achievement at Presentation Night on the 9th December, with our Year 7’s and 8’s well represented for their excellent achievement and academic endeavour. I would like to congratulate all students who received awards – they certainly should be proud of their achievements.

On Tuesday 8th December we welcomed our new Year 7’s for 2016. Our biggest cohort for many years began their day in the hall with a mixture of excitement, anticipation and nerves, but finished the day with a real sense of enthusiasm, achievement and relief. They had a wonderful day experiencing high school with a real timetable and have already begun making positive connections with each other. I am sure they will find their transition to secondary school smooth and rewarding.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mariza Pagel and Jim Hiotis for their hard work and outstanding support of their respective year levels in 2015. I would also like to wish everyone a happy, safe and restful Christmas break and look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year.

Steve Dixon, 7 & 8 Sub-school Leader

Year 7

The year 7’s have had an amazing year and I can’t believe how quickly it has gone by. The students have had a very successful year and it was good to see them embrace all the various opportunities available to them. I am very proud of the year 7 cohort and their achievements this year.

We’ve had a busy term and I especially enjoyed the Music Soiree evening, where the year 7 students performed in various individual and group items. We are fortunate to have many talented musicians in the cohort and it was the first time that we had enough members to form our own year 7 band!

Thank you to the year 7’s who helped out during the various Year 5 Primary Visits and the 2016 Year 7 Orientation day this term. The Primary School students appreciated the friendly, supportive faces, who were willing to answer any questions they had about starting high school and assist them through the day.

As part of the year end program and to congratulate our Year 7’s on their successful year, we have arranged an excursion to Gumbuya Park. It promises to be a fun day out, with many different activities for the students to enjoy such as the toboggan and water slide. A great way to end a good year and I wish you all the best for the holidays and for year 8!

Mariza Pagel, Year 7 Student Manager

Year 8

What a fabulous heart-warming experience it was to present so many deserved awards to Year 8 students on Presentation Night. I felt so proud and look forward to “big things” from them in the future. On Monday 30th November it was Souvlaki/Kebab day at Sandringham College, which came about from a promise I made to all the students who kept nagging me for one when I cooked them for the staff. 250 lamb kebabs were devoured on the day which was a great way to welcome our Year 7 and 9 students to the 7 – 10 Campus. Some students donated a gold coin to charity and many more received a “freebee”.

To conclude I would like to thank all the hard working staff and form teachers for their support as well as all the Year 8 students who were terrific. A fantastic, safe and restful holiday season for all.

Jim Hiotis, Year 8 Student Manager

Year 9 Photography

A huge thank you to Carleene and Darren, Zoe Rokhar’s parents for giving our Year 9 Photography students a wonderful opportunity to have their photos enlarged and professionally printed through their company “CPL Digital Photographic Lab”. Seeing their images blown up and such a lovely quality has really made them feel quite proud of their achievements.

Year 9

Year 9’s have begun their Year 10 ‘Head Start’. They are now all back on the Sandringham 7-10 site. The year has been significant for Year 9 as they are the first and last group of students to spend their Year 9 on another campus. They made the most of the opportunity presented by this and have successfully completed a range of engaging activities throughout the year, including Horizons, Horizons Initiatives and The Challenge Camp at the Grampians. They are to be commended on the level of maturity exhibited through the stages of completing their work at Beaumaris Campus and then moving to Sandringham 7-10 Campus. For some students, they are back on the site where they spent Year 7 and 8, however, there are a significant number of students who are on the site for the first time. This year level of students will make excellent leaders of the junior campus. It has been an honour and privilege to work with them this year.

Year 8’s submitted their subject selections for next year this week. I am sure they are looking forward to the challenge of Year 9.

Nadine Clarke, Year 9 Student Manager

Year 9 Multimedia

Year 9 Multimedia was an elective created to cater for the increase in Year 9 numbers by the end of semester 1. The students thrived exploring a huge array of digital technologies including Photoshop, Illustrator, creating phone apps, and creating games and animation using Adobe Flash.

Some of the amazing works created by the Year 9 Multimedia class can be found on the following links. Many are works in progress


Well done… a very committed group of students.

Suzanne Amott, Multimedia Teacher

Year 10

It’s certainly been a busy finish for our year 10 students. They have just started their Headstart at senior campus after a fantastic finish at the Bluff Rd campus. To celebrate the students had the Year 10 formal at Brighton International, it was a great night with many amazing performances. It was lovely to see so many parents supporting these students at the Celebration Assembly as well. Our school vice captains – Graham and Poppy did an amazing job hosting whilst Katherine and Rory delivered an extremely professional summary of their time at Sandringham College. Let’s not forget exams either, these students conducted themselves extremely well during a very stressful time and I’m sure they would’ve received great marks as their reward.

Good luck to all students for next year and beyond!

Adam Paterson, Year 10 Student Manager, Engagement and Pathways

Keep your old school uniform!

Given the phasing out of the old style uniform at the end of 2016 we have been discussing what becomes of the very large stock of old styled uniform both in our recycled uniform shop and in your cupboards at home. At the moment we are in negotiations with our local Rotary Club about the possibility of sending it overseas to schools in need. So, please don’t discard the old uniform – we will update you throughout the year about our progress to this charity and will ultimately organise collections of clean and good quality uniform.

Uniforms (old and new styles) are accepted gratefully as donations, with proceeds benefiting families in need.

Assistant Principal Report

A big thank you to all students, parents and staff for a wonderful 2015. We have finished with a busy and productive few weeks. It was wonderful to honour the achievements, both academic and co-curricular, of our Year 7-11 students at Presentation Night on Wednesday. Over 250 different students received an award: an indication of the breadth and depth of our students’ talent and commitment.

A reminder to parents that, as advised with the booklist package, LearningField subscriptions will be payable from January 18th, 2016. You will be emailed shortly with instructions for payment, which is via the LearningField website. Students in Years 7-10 will access most of their textbooks through their LearningField subscription.

For families needing to upgrade or replace iPads or laptops, you now have the option of using the Apple Store Southland’s Family Funded program. You can access the program’s education pricing via the link on the Sandringham College website http://www.sandringhamsc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/ict/.

Have a very happy, restful and safe holiday break. I look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Ciar Foster, Assistant Principal
Farewell Beaumaris – Campus Principal Report

For my final newsletter item for the year, I have included an excerpt of my speech from the Beaumaris Campus Farewell evening held on November 18th 2015.

“Beaumaris Campus may have older aging LTC buildings, but the heart within is strong. To the families who supported us by entrusting their students to us – I thank you.

For those currently enrolled at Beaumaris, we look forward to migrating North next week and continuing the wonderful relationship through Sandringham 7-10 and Senior Campuses.

Campus school, with major building works at both sites and the development of the Beaumaris site, commencing during 2016, will see a new school born.

Thankyou and please enjoy the evening.”

Thankyou to all who assisted in the planning and organising of this final event, this was a fitting tribute to a wonderful school. We look very much to the future as the students settle in to life at Sandringham 7-10 and commence planning for 2016.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming every one back in 2016.

Suzanne Reinhardt, Beaumaris Campus Principal

Beaumaris donation brings smiles

While we are sad to say goodbye to Beaumaris Campus, it is heartening to know that the donations of equipment from that campus have already brought smiles to some.

An excerpt from thank you letter from Brad James, Secretary of the Kingston Men’s Shed, Clayton South

“...Thank you very much for your kind donation to our shed! The work benches have been put to work and the radial arm saw has been setup … thanks to the kindness of you school. I include a photo of the shed in operation using your benches, making wooden toys for a local play centre.”
Off to China

During the last weeks of October, two teachers; Adam Paterson and myself, were able to visit China with the International Co-ordinator, Denise Cornish. It was a wonderful opportunity to view the organisation and hard work that is behind such a trip. Kerry Haley spent countless hours booking events such as Expos in Shenzhen and Guangzhou in addition to meetings with agencies in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Fuzhou and Hangzhou.

These activities were an excellent opportunity to promote Sandringham College and education in Australia as a whole. We were considered friendly and approachable by the Chinese and with the assistance of translators were able to communicate the opportunity of studying and living in a safe, supportive ‘Home Stay’ environment.

We also were able to meet with parents of current International students in all cities visited which was wonderful. The families were provided with reports and photographs of their sons or daughters and were given the opportunity to ask questions to representatives from both the Senior and Sandy 7-10 Campuses.

We were invited to lunch, dinners, tours and even a visit home. The Chinese families were so appreciative of our care of their children. It was a fabulous experience which I would recommend to anyone who has the opportunity.

Annette Vichie

Cooking to a theme

During the final term, Language Centre students have had the opportunity to refine their English skills while preparing food products and sampling Australian food ingredients and recipes.

The photos show the class sampling an Australian BBQ including kangaroo and camel meat, and products made such as novelty cakes and chocolate crackle Christmas trees. We all had fun learning.

Annette Vichie
From November 28th to December 6th Sandringham has taken part in RACV Great Victorian Bike Ride. For all of the students, teachers and parents this is a fun, friendly and challenging camping adventure intermingled with riding their bikes over 540kms.

It’s the opportunity to spend a week in another world, where you join our canvas community while exploring the beautiful Victorian countryside by bike.

The event is the largest multi-day ride in the Southern Hemisphere, this year we rode from Ballarat to Bendigo, via Dunolly, Inglewood, Heathcote and Castlemaine. We got to ride through some of the great cycling routes Victoria has to offer, while also be able to explore some iconic gold rush towns.

This year we even got to spend an entire day riding with Professional Cyclist Simon Clarke, who rides for Orica Green edge.

This event tests all of our students in the our college core values of Creativity, Respect, Independence, Integrity and Achievement. We will all have memories from this year’s ride that will last for a long time.

Thank you to all of the teachers and parents who have supported our students on this ride.

We are very lucky to have such amazing people at Sandringham College.

Michael McGowan, GVBR Coordinator 2015
Victorian State School Spectacular

On Saturday December 5th the Victorian State School Spectacular was broadcast on channel 7.

The Spectacular includes a cast of 3000 Victorian government school students, and is an invaluable performing arts opportunity to Victoria’s government school students and to showcase the enormous talent that exists in our schools.

In 2015, three Sandringham College Dance students were selected out of hundreds who auditioned to perform as part of the ensemble dance group.

Sandringham College would like to take this opportunity to formally congratulate Tali Todd-Collins, Ethan A’Costa and Mille Daniels-Gardiner on this massive achievement.

Meg Lee, Dance Program/Academy Coordinator

Grade 4 SEED Dance Program

On Monday December 7, 2015 Sandringham College hosted local Grade 4 Dance students as they participated in the SEED Dance program.

The Grade 4 students worked with Meg Lee and two of our senior dance students (Dominique Cowden and Lauren Main) and participated in Dance choreography workshops and designed their own costume.

The students will perform their work next week at the Senior Campus Theatre.

Thank you to Dominique and Lauren for all of their hard work.

Meg Lee, Dance Program/Academy Coordinator

Literary Magazine

This year, Sandringham College has launched its very own Literary Magazine, aptly titled: “Lighting the Night”. Students were given the opportunity to voluntarily submit poems or short stories for publication. I was delighted to receive well over 120 entries, and I once again thank Julian Lewis for editing the magazine and deciding on the 50 exceptional entries that have been published.

This magazine provides us with the opportunity to showcase the diverse literary talents of our students, and the pages serve as a useful forum for them to voice their concerns and interests. Through their writing, students have demonstrated an awareness of the broader society and their role within it. They have drawn inspiration not only from their families and friends, but many pieces reflect the style and literary works of greats such as Truman Capote and William Shakespeare.

I would like to thank every student who submitted work to the magazine. Whether it was published or not, students should be proud of themselves for submitting their writing to an open forum such as this. I encourage all students to begin thinking about their entries for next year.

Well done to our prize winners:

1st place: Shona Flynn (Year 12)
2nd place: Zoe French (Year 8)
3rd place: Eugene Lombardo (Year 9)

Copies of the magazine are available from the college office.

Enza Sepe – English Domain Leader 7-10 campus.
Don’t Push The Red Button!

Reverse psychology. It doesn’t always work but I have been guilty of falling for its wiles and living dangerously. I have actually pushed the red button back in the days when there was a red button at the back of every computer, and pushing it meant that you’d conducted a very expensive experiment.

These days it’s pretty difficult to kill technology and we often experience the opposite effect of my red button test: things just don’t go away no matter how you try to hide them or yourself. The point I’m making here though is that pushing that button or trying something that takes you well and truly out of your comfort zone, no longer always has the dire consequences it once did. Maybe the result of trying something new could be that you end up making your life a lot more interesting or even easier.

In a world where the volume of information is increasing faster than ever before, we find comfort in tradition and in the old mantra ‘if it isn’t broken, don’t fix it’. There’s a lot to be said for pulling up the proverbial doona, but if we are to progress and improve on what may be either a good or broken system we should all take that deep breath and confront contemporary life head-on.

Schools should be places where we produce leaders and where we encourage ground breaking and inspirational thought, but in our busyness that focus can become swamped in getting through the curriculum and surviving each day. This is why it’s important for each of us to take time from the routine to attend professional development or to just learn something new. From mixing with our peers and chatting to like-minded people we gain inspiration and enough courage to challenge the status quo. We can then encourage students to take calculated risks in thoughts and actions. We can teach them that pushing the ‘red button’ is how you achieve something that is much more than your imagined set of possibilities.

I kind of knew that I’d kill my computer by doing what I was told I should not do, but I’m here to live another day. I have another computer with fewer glitches and I’m getting over my failed attempt at fixing something that really did fix it for good. I’ve attended (along with my colleague and friend Eleanor Schmidig), a professional development event which made my ‘red button’ finger itch again.

It is definitely okay to push the envelope…in fact we want everyone to do just that in a positive way, but I can now hear all the Amstrad green screens shivering in their mossy crypts and the superior Apples and Windows notebooks thinking ‘just try it…you may be amazed at what we enable you to do’!

Sharon Brookes and Eleanor Schmidig recently attended the conference ‘Reading, It’s all About the Story’. (Organised by the School Library Association of Victoria)

Here’s what some of our current students say:

‘I love going to reading in the library. It’s helping me enjoy reading different books.’ Year 7 student

‘It’s relaxing reading in the library. The parents are lovely.’ Year 7 student

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Lisa Fraley 0421958364 or Debbie Carter 0459779661.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sharon Brookes and Eleanor Schmidig recently attended the conference ‘Reading, It’s all About the Story’. (Organised by the School Library Association of Victoria)
**Being School Council President**

Many years ago I was told by a colleague and mentor, that the best way to improve your child’s educational outcome is to get involved with the school. He said to foster relationships with the teachers and find out how you can help.

Public schools can always use some help and donating some of your time sets a great example to your children of the value you place on the school and also gives you a chance to put something back into the community. While preparing for a recent presentation to a community group, Allen McAuliffe advised me that collectively we have about fifty parents making the school better for everyone.

The parent body helps in many ways, some form the “board of management” that is School Council, others through the broad coordination of PTF assist with reading and literacy programs, organise fundraising events and BBQ’s, operate the second-hand uniform shop, facilitate the second hand book swap, make costumes and sets for the performing arts, provide refreshments at the many soirees through the year or help by riding the Great Vic Bike Ride.

I chair School Council monthly meetings during each term. Finance sub-committee also meets monthly but other sub-committees meet as required. Council discusses all manner of school business and we provide a sounding board for the Principals’ Team and are a critical filter for the schools direction, planning and budget. From time to time, councillors assist the school leadership team host important visitors to the school or we may be involved in discussion with community organisations.

Being involved gives me a great understanding of where the School is heading and there is great satisfaction working with a very cooperative team.

Steve Peacock, School Council President

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**Did you know YOU are on the PTF?**

Every parent or guardian who has a child enrolled at Sandringham College is a member of PTF. But what does that mean?

The PTF is a way to:
- get involved,
- learn about,
- seek support,
- and have a say in College life.

**Why should you get involved?**

Researchers have been studying the effects parent attitudes and actions have on their children’s academic success for more than 30 years. The results have been consistent.

“When parents are involved in their children’s education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better.”

**How can you get involved?**

PTF supports different College faculties through parent involvement; these include but are not limited to:
- College productions, Supportive reading scheme, Great Vic Bike Ride, Music performances, Working Bee’s, Comic Club, Used uniform shop, Student welfare, Social events.

If you see a need in how parent involvement can improve or support college life then we are happy to help you explore it...

The PTF meets monthly on a Wednesday evening, the details are advertised in the school newsletter and on the school calendar. However, if you are not able to make the meetings then one of the committee will be happy to meet with you at another time over a coffee or respond to an email. PTF includes Teachers too ... How can College staff contact the PTF for support in their curriculum area?

The College principals attend the PTF meetings and can bring requests from teaching staff. PTF also welcomes presentations from College staff on new initiatives which could benefit from PTF support.

For more information please contact: Catherine Kirby catherinekirby@me.com, Lou Buchorn lou@aanet.com.au, Teressa Savage phil.savage@bigpond.com

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**The PTF Recycled Uniform Shop**

This year Sue Larkin and I found running the shop an easy and enjoyable responsibility. We have re-organised it while we’ve had fewer customers - due to a lower demand for the older style uniforms in 2015.

The shop stocks plenty of the older style uniforms, all in very good-to-excellent condition and inexpensive. Years 9, 10 and 11 can still wear them next year (but not in 2017). We also have one of the new dresses and a jersey, both in size 16.

The shop is on the 7-10 campus and is open once a month (2.30 to 3.30 on the first Thursday).

Sabrina Blom, PTF Recycled Uniform Shop Coordinator

As a footnote we are looking for someone to carry on being the ‘BBQ King or Queen’ (hence the picture of Catherine holding BBQ tongs). The PTF volunteer position includes managing approximately two BBQs per year (Bunnings fundraiser and Voting BBQ on a per needs basis). If you are interested please contact us on the details above.

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL & PTF NEWS**

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