Welcome to all of our new students and families and welcome back to all who are returning for the start of the school year – a year that we hope will be a very positive experience for all of our students. The school is off to an even smoother and more settled start than usual, with all Year 8 to 12 students having commenced their 2013 programs at the end of last year, where they met their teachers and had an introduction to all subjects for this year. Other organisational matters such as the allocation of lockers were also attended to at the end of last year, which has helped to minimise disruption to students’ classes now. It is hoped that this uninterrupted start will assist students to sharpen their focus on their learning from the beginning of the year. As is always the case, we look forward to working together with parents to support our students to reach the levels of achievement they are individually capable of. Again, we invite parents to work together with us to ensure students are meeting the basic requirements necessary for success in their studies. These include:

- Excellent attendance and punctuality
- Bringing the appropriate books and equipment each day
- Using class time effectively
- Completing homework
- Keeping to deadlines for submission of work
- Putting in maximum effort at all times

The last point on ‘maximum effort’ is one that underlies all of the others, and it will be explicitly emphasised with the students throughout the year. Of course, the chances of this message being conveyed successfully will be much greater if it is also reinforced at home, so we will be most appreciative if parents too can emphasise the importance of consistent and persistent effort.

2012 VCE Results
Congratulations to our 2012 Year 12 class, on their results. These were some of the best VCE results the school has seen, and they represented the best performance in the local community.

Special commendation must go to our Dux, Jaye Heffernan who attained an ATAR of 99.10. This puts Jaye in the top 1% of VCE students across the state of Victoria. The college will be hosting a special Presentation Assembly with Years 10 – 12 students where all of our top VCE students will be invited to receive a VCE High Performer Awards, in acknowledgement of their outstanding academic achievements.

Improving School Home Communications
Introduction of the Compass Program
With the aim of further improving and streamlining school-home communications, the college has invested in the software program, Compass.
This program includes several packages, some of which include being able to:

- Electronically check your child’s attendance 24/7
- Receive notifications about events or other information relating to specific homegroups, year levels or whole school
- Receive the school newsletter
- Make confirmation of your child’s course selection
- Receive electronic copies of mid-term and mid-semester progress checks, and semester reports
- Make payments for excursions, camps or material charges

Each of these functions will be phased in over the year, but in this introductory phase our priority will be the implementation of the student attendance function. By the beginning of next week, for any student with an unexplained absence, their parents/carers will receive an SMS notification of this absence at approximately 10.30 am. All parents and carers have had a letter of introduction to the Compass program and a password posted home. If anyone has not received their letter please contact the General Office. There is a direct link to Compass posted on the school website (www.footscray.vic.edu.au) for easy access.

2012 Semester Two Reports
At the end of last year, we introduced a new method of distributing student reports. All Year 7 to 11 parents and students were invited to attend on one of the two days that were set aside for the distribution of reports, as well as diaries, uniform guidelines including changes to shoe requirements, and other information required for the start of this year. Year 8 students were also able to collect their netbooks for use in Year 9. This change to distribution of reports, materials and information for 2013 was part of the overall plan to have our students ready to immediately launch into their programs and the business learning without interruption from Day 1. Thank you to all parents who attended on one of these days to collect their son or daughter’s report, diary and the other information. If you did not collect your child’s report at the end of last year, and have not already made arrangements to obtain it this year, please give your child written permission to collect it from their Coordinator.

Change to Shoe Requirements in Uniform Policy
The uniform policy now specifies that shoes must be black leather lace-ups. This decision was made on the basis of safety. During fourth term the school underwent a major Health and Safety audit and as a result, the inadequacy of our policy regarding shoes came to light. It should be noted that all-black leather runners are acceptable within this new policy.

Industrial Situation - Stopwork Thursday 14th Feb
It is unfortunate that a resolution to the impasse on developing a new Agreement for Teachers and Education Support Staff has not been reached at this stage after two years of attempted negotiations. While the school has instituted a number of changes to ensure minimum disruption to our students’ learning programs, it is, disappointing that there is potentially a level of disruption beyond the control of the school, looming before us because of this.

Many will be aware that there is a Stopwork scheduled by the AEU for Thursday 14th February. It is unlikely that we will have the capacity to offer any normal programs on the day, but I will not be able to determine exactly what we will be able to offer until early next week when it is closer to the event. Notifications will be sent home with students.

Although there are bans on any activities that fall outside of the normal 38 hour week, our Year 8 camp will proceed because it was planned and payments had been made long before the introduction of the bans. Because of these factors we are able to proceed with the camp.

Building Projects
The building projects for the Sustainability Centre over at the Farnsworth Avenue Farm and the Sci-Tech Centre planned for the main school site have reached the tendering stage. It is envisaged that construction will commence around the end of Term 1. These are exciting projects that will offer exciting options in areas such as environmental science, physics, electronics and avionics for our students in the future. The construction phase will undoubtedly provide us with a few organisational challenges and inconveniences for a period of approximately 5-6 months, but will be well worth the end result.

It is a year of promising developments and we hope to see the school and our students go from strength to strength throughout 2013.

Maria Bawden - Principal

FCC ROCKET TEAM HEADS TO KUALA LUMPUR
Early in December last year two Year 10 Physics students from Footscray City College, Liam Hoare and Nick Fawcett, were accorded the honour of representing Australia at the annual Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF) Water Rocket competition. This year’s event was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the National Planetarium in unbelievably hot and humid conditions (At least for us!!).
From the initial proposal at APRSAF-11 in Canberra, the Water Rocket Event has grown to include over 100 students and teachers from many different countries, including teams from Pakistan, India, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan, Indonesia, Korea and Columbia. A bit like the Olympics Australia is one of the few countries to have competed at all the events so it was a fantastic opportunity for FCC to carry the baton last year.

This event immerses students in an international competition with students from many Asian and Pacific Rim countries. The exposure to a non-European culture in a scientific context is a very strong example of science as a human endeavor. It helps students appreciate that people of diverse cultures have contributed to and shaped the development of science.

The construction and launch of water rockets helps students to develop a qualitative and quantitative understanding of the relationships between force, mass and movement and it is a good example of how energy can be responsible for the changes observed in physical processes and applications. This gave our students an opportunity to enhance their school based learning through a further practical (and fun!) application of their knowledge.

The students were given 90 minutes to construct their rockets. Although all students were given exactly the same materials, their designs varied, reflecting their creativity and understanding of the physics of rocketry. Before the official competition started the students were given two practice launches to test their rockets and make any last minute adjustments. After the official competition photograph everything was ready and the competition began! The rockets are launched at an angle with the aim of landing them in a target 80 metres away with each member offered two launches. The FCC team performed well finishing midfield of 20 plus teams and Nick and Liam were outstanding (top 3 at least) in the dancing/performance activity during the celebration dinner.

The opportunity to mix with teachers and students from such diverse backgrounds and cultures was fascinating and invaluable but all over way too quickly and before we knew it we were on the long journey home.

Special thanks to Ian Christie from the Victorian Space Centre for facilitating the trip and for passing on his special inside rocket building knowledge and also to our hosts Malaysian National Space Agency (ANGKASA) and cohosts the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

VU SCIENCE CHALLENGE
The end of last year also saw 16 of FCC’s science enthusiasts head to VU for the annual Science Challenge against 14 other schools from the Western Region. Students compete in teams solving many different challenges and take part in exciting engineering and science based activities over three days culminating in a celebration and quiz competition.

A special mention to Ismael Kassar for his Excellence award and to Rory Young, Ryhan Wellwood, Patrick Bruce and Jake Lees who represented FCC in the final challenge.

Adam Taylor - Head of Science

LIBRARY NEWS
You may have noticed that the library has undergone a facelift and looks quite a bit different. At the end of 2012 the dedicated library staff rearranged the shelving to create a more user friendly and open space. A fresh coat of paint and some new furniture has also helped to revamp the library and provide some more comfortable reading areas. We hope you enjoy and respect this new space as we have done it all for you!

Despite all the physical changes we still provide you with all the fantastic services you’ve become used to such as online databases, issues articles, computer access, photography club, chess club, book club as well as a wide selection of novels, graphic novels, magazines, picture books and non-fiction and reference materials.

And remember; don’t hesitate to ask for help if you need it. The library staff can help you with just about any query or request no matter how big or small.

Daniel and the Library Staff

CHESS CLUB
Chess Club will begin on Friday 15th Feb at 12:40pm in the library classroom. To join simply sign up at the library desk! Be on time and don’t forget to bring your lunch.

Mustafa Eyiam
THE FRIENDS OF FOOTSCRAY CITY COLLEGE
First Meeting 2013
Tuesday February 12th at 7pm in the Staffroom.
You are invited!

The Friends of Footscray City College is the Parent and
Community support group for this school. Our tasks are to:

- Contribute to the well being of the students, staff
  and other members of the school community.
- Assist in building the participation of parents and
  friends in the life of the school generally and in the
  education of their students in particular.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of education
  issues and contribute to the process of formulating
  school policy.
- Support the work of the school council.
- To raise funds for the benefit of the students.

The “Friends” meet on the second Tuesday of each
month at 7.00pm in the Staff Room at the College. The
meeting formalities are typically completed by 8.30pm.
We have refreshments to keep up our energy and a lot of
fun. All members of the school Community are welcomed
and encouraged to join us. More importantly by participat-
ing in your child's education you are saying this is im-
portant and we want you to succeed.

This first meeting for 2013 is Tuesday February 12th at
7pm in the staffroom. Everyone and especially Year 7
parents are encouraged to attend. It is a great way to con-
tinue the connections made from primary school and to
meet your child’s new friends parents.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is pro-
vided by the Victorian Government to lower income
families to help with education-related costs.
If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health
Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster
parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The
allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and
one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-
related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, text-
books, and stationery. You can elect to have the EMA
paid into your nominated bank account or receive a
cheque.
In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:
$300 for year 7 students
$250 for students in year 8 – until age 16.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to complete
an application form for the EMA.

Closing Date: Parents/guardians need to lodge an
EMA application form by 28 February 2013.
For more information about the EMA, visit

Schoolkids Bonus:
From January 2013, a new payment called the
'Schoolkids Bonus' will be introduced by the Common-
wealth Government. The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid
by Centrelink in January and July each year to help
families with school costs.
Families receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A will re-
ceive up to $820 for each child in secondary school.
For more information about the Schoolkids Bonus, visit

YEAR 9 AND 10 PATHWAYS
The VCE subjects you choose in Year 10 can determine
what you can study after you finish Year 12, especially at
university.
Year 9 and 10 is the time to start exploring. To assist you
in this process you will be visiting all of Melbourne’s major
universities over the next two years.
In early May you will be visiting the age of The Age VCE
Careers Expo. This is a major exhibition at Caulfield race-
course where every tertiary institution in Australia is pre-
sent.

All year 9 students will then go on to visit
RMIT University, Victoria University & Swinburne Univer-
sity
Year 10 students will visit
Deakin University, Latrobe University, Monash University
& Melbourne University and
Participate in work experience during December 2013

To get started all students need to do is -
Sign up to and explore the my future website.
This can be found at www.myfuture.edu.au
Think realistically about your academic skills and inter-
est. What subjects are you good at? What do you really
enjoy studying? Doing the subjects you love is the best
route to the uni course and career you’ll also love!
Talk to your teachers about your career dreams. They can
help you find the best ways to achieve them. Use work experience to explore a job or industry you think you might like. Talk to friends and family about the study and work they’ve done since Year 12 (the good and bad experiences!). Check out the careers resources school, in libraries and online. Browse uni websites for course information, and subscribe to uni email lists to get updates and newsletters. Go to uni events and chat with staff and students. This is the best way to get a feel for a particular uni and what it’s like to study there. Most importantly, check the prerequisite VCE subjects for the uni courses in which you’re most interested. To be eligible to apply for most uni courses, you must have specific VCE studies in Units 1 and 2 and/or Units 3 and 4. You may need minimum specific study scores as well. Universities set prerequisites three years in advance so Year 10 students can select VCE subjects that may make them eligible to apply to particular courses. If you don’t have the prerequisites for your chosen uni course, you’re not eligible to apply. See prerequisites for La Trobe and other Victorian unis in VTAC’s VICTER 2015 guide. Another great resource is VTAC’s Choice! Guide, which gives you, detailed information about how VTAC ranks your VCE results.

Chris Lovelock - Pathways Coordinator

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2012

Students in Year 9 2012 participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award took part in the Extend, Mind and Body Bushwalk at Bogong Outdoor Education Centre-15 Mile Creek campus in December. Fifteen students from FCC spent three days based at BOEC and took part in a rich variety of outdoor education experiences including, canoeing, mountain bike riding, creek discovery bushwalks, rock climbing, abseiling, initiatives courses, setting up a flying fox, environmental activities and swimming. During the evening, activities such as night bushwalks, hide and seek, setting up fauna cameras, pictionary, and a disco were organized. The main focus of the week was an overnight bushwalk in the State Park surrounding the school camp which is in the Mt. Buffalo region. The students from Footscray City College were mixed with students from Templestowe College in four groups. The bushwalk involved students carrying a hiking pack, a trangia stove and a hiking tent and camping out overnight at Middle Creek. The students had to put into practice their bushcraft skills they had been taught in the compulsory training program offered at the school in the first three weeks of November. All the students were able to prepare a healthy meal on their trangia stove. The bushwalk involved 15 km of fairly easy walking in beautiful bushland along Middle Creek. Some students were given the opportunity to challenge themselves and hike back to the school camp across country which involved some bushbashing over Mt. Sugarloaf. The students from the two different schools seemed to really hit it off and enjoyed each other’s company while at the same time developing leadership skills, initiative and a love for the outdoors. Thanks should go to all the staff at BOEC and Templestowe College who made this week so fulfilling for us all and special thanks to Taylor Smythe for participating and who assisted with the organisation of this exciting week in the outdoors. Thanks should also go to Ron Jevic who helped with the administrative side of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Ron Jevic & Michael Hardiker - Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinators