MID-TERM PROGRESS CHECKS ON COMPASS NOW

With our new Compass program for electronic communication between home and school, the mid-term progress checks are now available online for parents. Hopefully all parents have been able to successfully log-on to the Compass portal to check your child’s progress for the first five weeks of the term.

It is, of course vital that students are off to a positive and productive start to the year, and these first progress checks are crucial for identifying any student who is showing signs of not being completely on top of their work. For any student, who has been identified as having uncompleted work, parents have been contacted. These students are required to attend redemption classes after school until all of their work is up to date. The mid-term checks are a most important exercise for keeping students on track, and for recognising the efforts of all those students who are performing well.

If you have not made your way onto the portal yet, it is highly recommended that you take advantage of the opportunity to go online and check your child’s progress in all subjects so far. Anyone having password or other problems please contact the general Office for assistance.

With such a short first term, we have scheduled the Parent – Teacher interviews for Monday 23rd April, in the second week of next term, and we look forward to meeting all parents at the first of these for the year.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Our two major building projects – the Sustainability Centre and the Sci-Tech Centre - funded by a $2.2 million grant from the Federal government, have finally reached the construction stage. The plan is for all excavation works to be carried out during the coming holidays. Safety wise, this will eliminate all of those potential hazards associated with having heavy vehicles and equipment on campus. The construction of the Sustainability Centre on the Farnsworth Avenue farm site opposite the main campus will have minimal impact on the operations of the school, however there will be some inconvenience resulting from the works on the Sci-Tech Centre which will be towards the front of the main Kinnears Street site. This will be carefully managed once discussions with the appointed builders have been held, with safety kept at a premium.

THANK YOU TO STUDENT AMBASSADORS AND PARENT SUPPORTERS OF FCC

For a third year, FCC participated in the Yarraville Festival where we distributed information about the school and conducted Science demonstrations which always attracts the younger ones at the festival.

A special thank you goes to all of those students who not only gave up their Saturday but came in uniform, to be part of promoting Footscray City. Throughout this day of searing heat, the students were either distributing our postcards for Open Day or conducting the Science demonstrations. The students included Liam Hoare, Toby Thomas, Roma Bond, Matilda Colebrook, Darcy Lucid, Imogen Braun, Cody Radford, Tom Duncan and Jayden Smith. Your level of commitment to the school is most appreciated. It is also worth noting that a parent of a Yarraville West PS student, took the time to email us to congratulate the school and commend the students who turned up to promote the school at the festival.

There are also parents who must be acknowledged for supporting the school at both the Yarraville and Seddon Festivals. Barbara Braun and Christina O’Connor both braved the heat to
help promote and support the school at the Yarraville Festival. Three other parents Astrid Rit-
enis, Michelle Hethorn and Resmie Recepoglu took the initiative to offer to run a stall at the
Seddon Festival. Their generous offer was accepted and during my time with them at the stall, a
strong and positive interest in the school was expressed by several of those passing by.

The level of commitment and support of both the students and the parents at these festival
events is an invaluable endorsement of the school, and we are greatly appreciative of this.

Member of the Public Affirms the Excellence of FCC Student Behaviour
It was heartening to receive an email from a member of the public who travels on the 472 bus, who
felt moved to commend our students who travel on this bus route. The email speaks for
itself

‘To whom it may concern,
I didn't know who to contact, but I just wanted to let someone at your school know about the
mature behaviour of the students that catch the 472 bus from Williamstown in the morning. I
have been taking this bus for almost a year now and the majority of the people who take the
bus are students of your school. I wanted to commend the behaviour of these students, they
are always so polite and courteous to the elderly people who ride the bus and myself and my 2
year old. I thought the teachers and parents of these students and especially the students
themselves would be happy to hear that their attitudes are appreciated.
Sincerely’

Our student commuters on the 472 are clearly and unwittingly, very fine ambassadors for the
college, and we are proud of their polite and considerate behaviour that has been noted by this
member of the public.

On this positive note, I would like to move on to drawing the attention of all, to the imminent
end of term that is before us. Students settled into the business of learning from Day 1 of the
year, and have taken part in many other activities in the past few weeks, but within only two
more weeks, the term will finish up. For new parents please note that there is an early 2.20 pm
finish on the last day of every term.

Maria Bawden - Principal

SENIOR NEWS
On March the 5th all students from Yr 10-12 participated in a series of study skills workshops
run by Elevate Education. The aims of the seminars were to provide students with adequate
skills to achieve the best possible outcome in their senior years and to equip them with simple
practical skills that they can use immediately to enhance their performance.
The workshops covered Time Management, Study Sensei, Ace your Exams, Memory and
Mnemonics and Essay Booster.
I have attached a summary of successful tips for VCE students emerging from the workshops
for parents and guardians to peruse.

SUCCESSFUL TIPS FOR VCE STUDENTS
Creating a Study Plan
It is easy to become overwhelmed by the hugeness of the task ahead of you and so to avoid
facing your anxieties through procrastination, draw up a workable study timetable to increase
your sense of control (and hence, reduce anxiety). This will also help you to become more
efficient with your time. It is important to be realistic: don’t set impossible goals for yourself.
You’ll be more likely to stick to your timetable if you take into account the following points:
Allow for the limitations of your attention span.
Avoid scheduling large slabs of time for one subject. Alternating subjects for study will help you
to sustain your concentration and interest.
Don’t cram – several reviews are more effective.
More material will be retained in memory if you schedule several review times over an ex-
tended period rather than one long session.

Work in terms of tasks not time.
Rather than having a vague aim to ‘study biology for two hours’, set a particular section of
work for each study period. A sense of achievement comes from successfully completing
small tasks, and breaking the work up into smaller sections makes the whole process of revi-
sion seem less daunting.

Review your approach.
If your study plan is not helping you to revise effectively, review your strategies and consider
making changes. For example, you may have attempted to fit too much into your timetable,
or your timetable may not be flexible enough to accommodate unexpected events. Resist the
temptation to throw away your plan and allow yourself to fall in a heap. Some minor adjust-
ments may be all you need to stay on track.

Make sure you include some recreation time.
If you allocate time for such activity you will be less tempted to throw it all in and waste time
avoiding work because of the unrealistic demands you have made upon yourself.
Last but not least always seek help from your teachers and family.

Vicki Tentzoglidis - Program Manager Years 10-12

NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY
The English faculty is off to a flying start with a welcome back to Ann Angelopoulos who is
working with our Year 9 students to further build their writing competency. Ann worked with
all our junior staff and students last year to introduce the use of “Powerful Writing Strategies”.
By taking a common approach to the teaching of writing we are able to really embed a con-
sistent approach by using the same language to prompt our students. Teachers could see
the effects of this at the end of last year when all students were asked to complete a persuas-
ive piece during course commencement. All staff noticed a huge improvement in the quality
of the work received. These strategies have been incorporated into the Year 7, 8 and 9 writ-
ing folio and persuasive writing sections of our junior courses. We have already noticed an
impressive improvement this year as students are prompted to recall what they learnt last
year with Ann. We continue to also work with the John Munro strategies, a whole school ini-
tiative, and Ann’s work complements these strategies, particularly the vocabulary and com-
prehension strategies.

Recently all students from Year 7 to Year 9 have undertaken On-Demand testing in Literacy.
This will provide teachers with extra diagnostic tools to further assist our students. This has
gone smoothly and most students have now completed the test. The results will now be ac-
cessed by their teachers and discussions about targeted assistance can be pursued.
This year our faculty decided to have all students work with loose leaf folders and dividers for
their English work. In the past many students chose to use only notebooks but it was felt that
these quickly become disorganised. It is pleasing to see that nearly all students have organ-
ised their folders promptly with dividers, loose leaf paper and plastic pockets. Students are
also required to have their own copies of the prescribed texts to work on at all year levels.
Again it is great to see that the vast majority of students have these texts ready to begin their
text work.

Once again this year we have performers from The Complete Works Theatre Company
booked in. For Year 7 and 8s we have their Phat Poetry performance, which has changed
from last year to incorporate more of the Australian Curriculum. This will be held early next
term. Year 10s will be able to see a performance of “Romeo and Juliet” later in the year and
our Year 12’s a performance of “Cosi”. These were all extremely successful last year and
come at a minimal cost.

Carol Hogan – English Coordinator
MADAME CURIE SCIENCE PARTY
Named for famed Polish Scientist Marie Curie, the FCC girls only Science Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at lunchtime in the Science room. Marie Curie was famous for her pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the only woman to win in two fields (Physics and Chemistry), and the only person to win in multiple sciences. An inspiration to all!

The next meeting will be on Monday the 18th of March in the science room at lunchtime and will involve a talk from Astrophysicist Jacinta den Besten from the University of Melbourne. Jacinta will share the story of her pathway into the sciences, her current role and possibilities for careers in science as well as answer any questions students may have. The atmosphere is relaxed and informal and students are encouraged to bring their lunch and enjoy the company of likeminded scientists! Some light refreshment of the sweet variety will be provided.

SCIENCE CLUB
Don’t worry gentlemen we haven’t forgotten about you. Every other Monday lunchtime will be normal Science Club in the Science room when everyone is welcome. There are a host of activities planned including our involvement in the Aurecon Bridge Building competition, Science in Film and Scinema (In which FCC is a foundation member), Science Quiz competitions and the Amazing Spaghetti Machine Challenge at the University of Melbourne at which last years’ team did such a fantastic job (see The Age online http://bit.ly/MawMuH ).

ASTRONOMY CLUB
This year will see a slight change to the Astronomy Club with viewing nights running fortnightly on Monday or Tuesday nights regardless of weather. If viewing is not possible due to inclement conditions then a series of interactive lectures about the night sky and the wonders of the Universe will be offered by working astronomers and cosmo logists from our partners in science the University of Melbourne. Friends and extended family are more than welcome at these viewing events/lectures which will begin at the end of daylight savings in April. All interested students should contact Adam Taylor for further information.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK
In conjunction with the Florey Institute Outreach program and as part of Brain Awareness Week neuroscientists from the institute are coming to FCC next week to talk to year 10 and 11 Psychology students about the function of the brain, drug addiction and the adolescent brain, how to study the brain as well as what happens when things go wrong. They’ll also talk to students about a career in medical research, brain development and injury, brain plasticity, mental illness and disorders.

ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA
A report launched by Engineers Australia last year showed that the increase in the number of Australian trained engineers graduating each year is still not enough to solve Australia’s engineering skills shortages. As part of FCC’s commitment to the Sciences and in particular exposure to viable pathways for young people we are taking a large group of year 9 and 10 students to the 2013 Engineering Careers Expo to be held at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne on Thursday 21 March.

The Expo will involve around 80 exhibitors from engineering, science and technological industries for teachers and students to speak with directly and investigate careers and educational opportunities. More detailed information can be found at www.engineersaustralia.org.au.
I'M A SCIENTIST GET ME OUTA HERE

I’m a Scientist is like when school science lessons meet the X Factor! School students choose which scientist gets a prize of $1000 to communicate their work. Students from some Year 8 and 9 science classes will be participating in live chats with working scientists before they make their decision. Scientists and students talk on this website. They both break down barriers, have fun and learn. But only the students get to vote.

Our zone is the Agriculture Zone. It has a range of scientists studying all different topics. Who gets the prize? WE decide!

So, what’s the Agriculture Zone all about?

Agriculture is the growth and welfare of animals, plants and other life forms for use as food, fuel and other products essential for sustaining human life. This zone includes scientists that work in Agricultural science, but they all do different things as their day job. From focussing on animal welfare, to the development of GM (Genetically Modified) plants to help sustain human life, this zone shows the diversity of Agricultural science and its role in our daily lives, wherever it is in the world we might call home.


Keep up to date with science at FCC at our blog at http://footscraycityblogs.com/science or ask your friendly neighbourhood science teacher for further information.

Adam Taylor - Science Coordinator

YEAR 8 CAMP

The traditional Year 8 camp went ahead as usual at Lake Dewar in Bacchus Marsh early in term one. A terrific number of students attended and all efforts were made to participate in all the adventure activities on offer. It is an action bound camp with a range of water activities, greatly enjoyed as the weather was perfect, and also endurance and survival activities that tested our students creativity, teamwork and thinking skills.

Students had many opportunities to show how they support each other, as some endured greater hardship in completing tasks than others, upon returning from the camp our teachers continue to speak of how proud they were of the efforts and support shown.

One thing about Camp Dewar that we all enjoy is the food. Yes, camp food can be great! It is lovely to meet together three times each day for this communal meal and our students ate ample in an atmosphere of warmth and excitement as the days activities were planned for and discussed.

Too soon for most, it was time to head home even though everyone was exhausted after working all those muscles for three solid days. I am sure that this camp will remain a highlight in the memory of many students, for new friendships made and the challenges achieved.

Our Year 8 students are now well set up for the challenges of this academic year.

Stephanie Campbell - Assistant Principal Yr 7-9

YEAR 7 WILLIAMSTOWN BEACH DAY

On Wednesday 6 March our year 7 students, along with their Homegroup teachers and co-ordinators, travelled down to Williamstown Beach for an opportunity to further get to know their fellow students and teachers in an environment outside of the school.

The weather conditions were perfect for the beach which made swimming the most popular activity of the afternoon. We also had our year 12 Sports and Recreation students in attendance to organise beach games such as soccer, Frisbee throwing and Tug of War.

Lunch was also very popular – the BBQ was a big hit with our students.

A big thank you to Loretta and Filiz for the great job they did in cooking for such a large group.

Unfortunately our time to leave came all too soon but the day had been a great success for all involved.

Ashley Dawson - Year 7 Coordinator
TEACHWILD EDUCATION PROGRAM
Students in Year 8 and 9 at Footscray City College have been given the opportunity to take part in an exciting marine education program during 2013 organized through TeachWild. TeachWild will endeavor to survey and map the distribution of marine debris to better understand marine pollution and its impacts on Australian wildlife. Marine debris affects more than 270 species of marine animals worldwide, however little is known about the impact on Australia’s wildlife. The Shearwater from pristine Lord Howe Island starved on a full stomach - full of plastic waste it had mistaken for food. Scientists say that two-thirds of seabirds are affected by plastic trash that pollutes our waterways, rivers and oceans. TeachWild is a national program that tackles this global issue and brings together scientists with teachers, students and employees to carry out hands-on fieldwork. Students in Year 8ME have already carried out a beach debris audit at Williamstown Beach on Wednesday 7th March. This involved identifying a suitable site and carrying out transect studies using the beach methodology survey. The students are working on a joint Mathematics and Science project where they collect scientific data for analysis in their Science classes, construct graphs of their data in their Maths classes and then upload this data on to the TeachWild website for CSIRO scientists to access. In term 2, students in Year 9 will re-visit the site at Williamstown Beach to carry out a follow up study to see the seasonal variation in the types of marine debris that are washed up.

Michael Hardiker – Science Teacher

THEATRE STUDIES
Year 11 Theatre Studies classes have been learning about different types of staging in pre-modern times as they delve deeper into their Unit 1 course. By taping an outline onto the stage, groups practiced a script excerpt from “The Tempest”. By acting within a confined space, either in the round or thrust, students were able to understand the way that space can influence a performance for both actor and audience. Rehearsals for the year 11 theatre studies play are underway with students learning lines from Oedipus, Everyman, and a variety of Shakespeare passages. Performance dates next term.

Emma Schmidt

ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASS
The English Language Class spent time creating a book about Living in Melbourne. They took photos of the school and of their friends and families and used these in their books. I have also been spending time cooking each week with the students who come from South America, China, Iran, Greece and Vietnam. Sharing food is a great way to initiate conversations and form a really great bond with each other. We are looking forward to some city excursions and some short drama performances as part of our course.

Emma Schmidt

CHESS CLUB
On Thursday 7th March, Paul Power, a Chess Tutor visited the School to demonstrate some opening moves and strategies. This lesson was enthusiastically welcomed by the Chess Club participants and hopefully they have learnt some winning strategies for their upcoming competitions. Chess Club runs each Thursday during lunch. This year students will participate in the Oz Schools Chess Challenge and one day Zone Competitions. All Students are welcome!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB
Photography Club will commence Tuesday 23rd April in the Library Computer room at lunchtime. Students wishing to participate may enrol at the desk in the library. Maximum 20 students.

Mustafa Eyiam – Extra Curricula Activities
VALENTINE’S DAY FUNDRAISER
Thanks to everyone who participated in the special deliveries and happily had their classes disrupted. We raised over $200 for our library. A big thank you to the students who made the special deliveries - please see attached photo: Leo Palmer  Toby Thomas
Madeleine Curran  Izzy Sturmey  &  Matilda Colebrook
Emma Pollock - Library

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER’S RISK
Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment, and cars parked on school premises.
- The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
- Staff and students should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

THE FreeZa PUSH START BATTLE OF THE BANDS
The Maribyrnong Heat of the Push start battle of the band is on again and this year will be held during national youth week on Friday 12 April.
We are currently seeking bands to compete in the battle and there are fantastic prizes up for grabs.
The Push Start Battle of the bands is a three level whole state battle of the bands. There is a heat, a regional final and then a state wide final held at The Push Over Festival.
For more information contact Phoenix Youth Centre: 9091 4700

ANIMAL CAREER DISCOVERY DAY
Spend the day at the RSPCA Animal Career Discovery Day!
Hear from RSPCA staff currently working in the industry in various roles and gain helpful insider knowledge on planning pathways to a fulfilling career with animals.
Details:
Dates: Thursday 14th March, Tuesday 18th June, Tuesday 3rd September and Thursday 5th December
Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm
Location: Burwood East RSPCA
Cost: $55 includes registration, morning tea, RSPCA career show bag, and all activity costs
For more information and to download a registration form visit:
http://www.rspcavic.org/services/education/secondary-education/animal-career-discovery-day

Now Accepting Applicants for 2014 Rotary Youth Exchange!
Are you a Year 9, 10 or 11 student? You may qualify as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student and have the opportunity to live and study in Germany, France Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, Hungary, Norway, Poland or USA.
The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is a unique opportunity for students to experience the culture of a new country, to learn a new language and develop new friendships.
Applications are now being accepted and close on Friday 19th April 2013. Students must be under the age of 18 years, as at 1st January in the year of departure.
Further information is available from -
www.rotaryyouthexchangeaustralia.com.au
Friends of Footscray City College Second-Hand Uniforms
Monday 25th March 3pm-5.30pm
After an encouraging start late last year, Friends of Footscray City College Second-Hand Uniforms will operate approximately once a month during the 2013 school year. Garments may be deposited and purchased on the date listed above. Future dates will be published in the Newsletter.
Please note that it is presently a “cash only” service.
We are working towards expanding payment options later in the year.
Stock is currently at a low ebb. If you have garments for sale and the above dates are inconvenient, please contact Michael Greenway on 0401 800 811 to arrange deposit of garments.
Thank you to all those who have supported this service.

West Footscray Football Club
JUNIORS WANTED
U10’s U12’s U14’s
We are LOOKING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
All welcome
Training Mondays and Wednesdays through March
Starting 5.00 pm at SHORTEN RESERVE
Corner of Essex & Market Street, West Footscray
Opposite the YMCA
Fees $135 (includes jacket with logo)
Enquiries: Greg Parsons (Junior Co-Ordinator) 0419 512 443
gregparsonswffc@hotmail.com

Don’t miss our VCE Music students performing at the Fete at 5.30pm