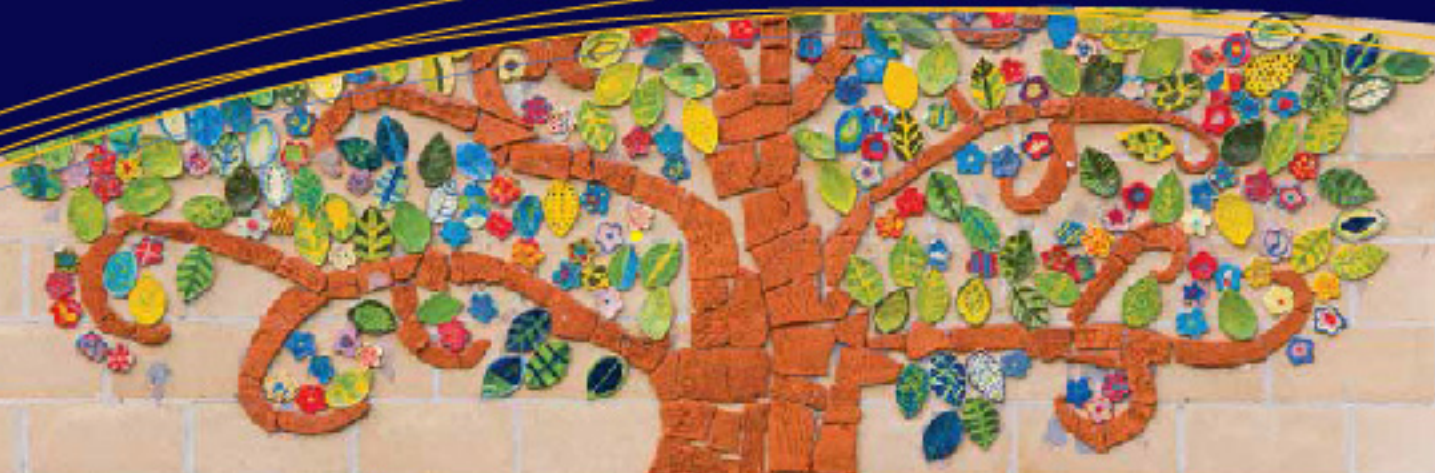


SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



IMPORTANT DATES

**25th April – ANZAC Day
Public Holiday**

**26th April – Parent
Teacher Interviews**

27th April - Term 2 Starts

**1st May - International
Children's Day
Celebration**

23RD June - Term 2 Ends

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As-Salaamu Alaykum & Greetings

Dear Parents and Carers,

I pray this message finds our families in the best of health and wellbeing.

Term One was filled with lots of learning, many wonderful events, and students settled very nicely into the 2023 school year and routine alhamdulillah. On a side note, I personally have just returned from a short period of leave, which has slightly delayed the publication of this newsletter.

The 2023 school year commenced very smoothly, was very well organized and there was amazing teamwork across the school. Our new Middle School Building has provided our Years 7-9 students and staff with wonderful facilities to learn and work and our Junior School students and staff are also enjoying their expanded facilities this year. We look forward to commencing construction of Stage 2 of our VCE Centre for Years 10-12 students later this year insha Allah.

In Term One we had so many successful events including the Meet the Teachers evening for Junior School parents, Information Evening for Middle/Senior School parents, a Compass Info Session for all parents, assemblies, Athletics Days, swimming program, many excursions and incursions, special wellbeing programs, interschool sports, Harmony Day, the Ramadan Food Drive and school-provided iftar dinners for Year 7, 9 and 12. We were also blessed to host several interfaith school visits including Koo Wee Ru Secondary College, Balcombe Probus Club, and Star of the Sea College, which our own students also participated in and benefitted from.



I thank our students, staff and families for their ongoing hard work, commitment, and support.



We have lots more in store for Term Two insha Allah. I pray we continue to build on the great successes of Term One, and I look forward to an outstanding Term Two insha Allah.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Toni Pikos-Sallie

College Principal

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

As we near the end of Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the incredible work our students have achieved this term. Our main focuses have been supporting student behaviour and academic progress, and I am proud to say that we have seen a positive impact on both fronts.

Throughout the term, we had several major events that allowed our students to showcase their skills and talents. Our interschool sports teams had a fantastic season, with our young athletes demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and teamwork. Our swimming program was also a big success, with many students showing impressive progress in their swimming skills. In addition to these events, our students completed the NAPLAN assessments with determination and focus. I am confident that their hard work will pay off, and we will see positive results in their academic progress.

We also celebrated Harmony Day, a day dedicated to celebrating our diverse cultures and backgrounds. Our students embraced this day with enthusiasm and respect for each other's differences, and it was a joy to see everyone come together.

We were thrilled to welcome the new families to our school community, and we hope they feel right at home with us. In our commitment to create a welcoming and supportive environment, we held several Meet the Teacher sessions to help new parents/carers settle in and get to know our staff. We also ran COMPASS help sessions to assist families in navigating our digital communication platform.

Looking forward to next term, I am excited about the many events and opportunities for our students and wider school community.

Lastly, we would like to wish our Muslim community a blessed month of Ramadan. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday break, and we look forward to seeing you all in Term 2.

Sincerely,

Mr. Cihan Karahan
Vice-Principal (Administration)
cihan.karahan@mthira.vic.edu.au

Dear Mt Hira Community,

Welcome back for the 2023 academic year. The start of 2023 has been extremely positive for the Senior School. We have been blessed with the addition of Mr. Hakan Oser as the Deputy Head of Senior School, which has allowed us to provide more individual support and guidance to all students within the Senior School.

In one of the great traditions, the Year 12 students took a short time away from their studies to share the first of their two-yearly breakfast together. 12M was tasked with bringing in plate of food to share with their peers and the generosity of the students and their families was outstanding. There was such large amount and variety of food, that everyone was well feed for the entire day. 12M have certainly set the bar high for 12T later in the year. The best part of the breakfast, however, was the time that the students got to spend with each other, their teachers, and the principal, giving everyone time to catch up and get to know each other better. I'd like to thank the students, families and staff who contributed to making this event such a success.



The Year 11 students have adjusted well to their full-time entry into the VCE program and have an exciting time ahead. During Week 2 of Term 2, all Year 11 students will partake in the Year 11 Retreat. Students will attend Allambee Camp for three days to complete study sessions, team building activities and fun activities such as Trivia Night. The College has also booked Elevate Education to run sessions with the students centred around developing the study skills they will need for the next few years.

We have also welcomed in our newest members of the Senior School, the Year 10 Cohort. They have moved from the portable classrooms and started the final steps in their schooling with an eye to their future education and employment. Nearly 30 percent of our Year 10 cohort have enrolled in a VCE head start program and are enjoying the opportunity to study at the Year 11 level. Students have generally adapted well to the change in the academic expectations from Middle to Senior School, however, I would encourage all Year 10 students to reflect how they did in Term 1, to think about what you did well and what changes you could make to improve your studies. This year is important as your approach and results will dictate which VCE subjects you can enrol in for 2024.

I hope that everyone has an enjoyable break and wish you all Eid Mubarak.

Mr Jack Franklin
Head of Senior School

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Mt Hira College has started off the 2023 Academic year well with fresh new faces among teachers and students and the energy and determination to succeed. I am one of the new inclusions into the College as the Deputy Head of Senior School with over a decade's worth of experience in VCE.

Term 1 has been a great start to the year. The senior school students were introduced to the new year and their new subject teachers during assembly. Classes commenced without delay. There has been a real buzz in senior school from day one. Students were encouraged to apply themselves from the very beginning and to pace themselves as they have a long and strenuous year ahead of them, particularly those in Year 12 or studying a Unit 3 & 4 subject. They've been advised to utilise their time wisely, by balancing the time in school with the time at home. Each Year 11 and 12 student has timetabled study periods to give them an opportunity to revise and study for their subjects and to seek assistance from their teachers. Special study programs will be allocated soon that will help students study more effectively and efficiently for their subjects. Alongside the focus on academics, it's equally as important to focus on wellbeing. The College encourages our students to eat well, exercise and get enough sleep to perform at their best. Students with genuine concerns that may affect their performance at the end-of-year Year 12 examinations were advised to apply for Special Examination Arrangements. Our College has similar provisions for senior students. Please see Jack Franklin or myself for further details.



The College has held a number of events thus far this term, none more exciting than the Annual Athletics Day. Students from across Middle and Senior School competed for prizes in events such as running, javelin, shot put, long jump and high jump. The highlight of the day was the tug of war competition between the Year 12 male and female students. It was a tight competition with the female students edging out the male students (twice!).



I am greatly looking forward to the continued growth and success of our senior cohort throughout this year. We as a College, as a Senior School department and teachers are ready to assist in any way, we can ensure that our senior students perform their very best and achieve the outcomes they desire.

Mr Hakan Oser
Deputy Head of Senior School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am delighted to share with you some of the exciting happenings at our college as we navigate through the first term of the Middle School academic year. It has been an action-packed start of the school year with our students settling back into their routines and engaging in various excursions, incursions, cultural activities, and sporting events.

We started the academic year with a refresher orientation program aimed at introducing our new students and refreshing our returning ones. Our staff provided an extensive orientation program that covered academic expectations, school procedures, and student life at the middle school. This helped the students adjust to their new surroundings quickly and ensured a smooth transition to their academic year.

The academic program is in full swing with our dedicated teachers and staff focused on delivering an engaging and challenging curriculum. Our curriculum is designed to provide a rigorous and enriching learning experience that prepares our students for their future academic and professional lives. Our curriculum places a strong emphasis on the development of literacy, numeracy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, while also encouraging creativity and innovation.

Our students have been actively involved in community service activities. This year, our students have participated in several charitable activities, including food drives and the sustainability program. We believe that community service is an essential component of our academic program as it instils a sense of responsibility and empathy in our students.

We have recently implemented a new student council program that provides an opportunity for students to take on leadership roles within the school. This program aims to empower our students to take ownership of their academic and social lives and provide them with a platform to share their ideas and perspectives. The student council will be led by Br. Muhammed Sezgin and the RE Team who will help guide and mould our future leaders.

We also value the importance of technology in education, and we continue to leverage technology to enhance our students' learning experiences. This year, we have given parents and guardians the opportunity to access daily lesson plans via Compass which also provides students with access to a variety of online learning resources and tools. This has enabled us to provide a blended learning experience that integrates traditional classroom teaching with online learning resources.

Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to all our parents and guardians for your continued support and partnership with our college. Your support and involvement are critical to the success of our academic program and the growth and development of our students.

We are off to a great start this academic year, and we look forward to continued success and growth. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our staff members should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr Serdar Eroglu
Head of Middle School

Assalam u alikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatu

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We would like to thank you for your continued support as we work together to create a positive learning environment for our students in Middle School.

We would like to remind all parents and students of the importance of adhering to our school's behaviour and uniform policies. We have noticed a significant improvement in the behaviour of our students, and we appreciate your support in ensuring that our school's expectations are met.

Our Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Parliament House and Melbourne Museum last week. This excursion allowed our students to gain a deeper understanding of the political process and explore the cultural and historical significance of Melbourne. We hope that this experience has broadened their knowledge and provided them with a memorable learning experience.

Our Middle school students have been actively participating in interschool sports events, representing our school with great pride and sportsmanship. We would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of our students and coaches in preparing for these events. We are excited to see our students continue to excel in sports and develop their skills as part of our school community.

We thank you again for your continued support in creating a positive learning environment for our students. We look forward to another successful term and keeping you informed about our school's activities and achievements.

Mr Faiq Amiri

Deputy Head of Middle School

Year 9 students have settled well into the 2023 school year and are enjoying learning within the new Middle School building.

Students are thoroughly engaged in the new electives on offer this semester. In Food Technology, students are learning about hygienic practices in the kitchen and have made delicious sandwiches, smoothies, and vegetable soup. In Media Studies class they are working in groups to create their own videos and developing video editing techniques.



Harmony Day was a wonderful day enjoyed by all Year 9 students. Many dressed in brightly coloured traditional dress and volunteered their time to organise cultural stalls that showcased various nations. It was brilliant to see students embracing cultural diversity through the bazaar displays, dancing, henna, face paint, games, and activities.



The Year 9 Debating Team recently took part in a competition against Haileybury College debating the topic 'Extra-curricular activities should not be compulsory'. Mt Hira students performed with confidence and maturity but unfortunately lost by one point.

We look forward to seeing this wonderful group of students continue to thrive in Term two.

Ms Melanie Gibney
Year 9 Co-ordinator

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

We have made an amazing start to the 2023 school year. It has been great to have students and teachers after our 6-week summer break. We are getting back into some of our usual activities, learning, incursions, excursions, and special days. It has been great to see the joy and excitement in students faces when taking part in some of the experiences they have had this Term.

As it has been the start of a new academic year, we are ensuring that students are reminded constantly about the Mt Hira School Values. Our Values make us who we are and play an important role in our development as people. Therefore, as a school we are proud of our five core Values: Excellence, Responsibility, Fairness, Honesty and Respect. We want all our Junior School students to ensure they are demonstrating these key values consistently in the classroom and at home.

We have also looked at the theme of kindness and have been promoting this by ensuring students understand that being kind is important. Students were reminded to speak kindly, help each other, and play with each other at recess and lunch in a kind manner. By teaching kindness, we are ensuring that students build a positive identity for a lifetime.



Our Junior School teachers this Term have focused on key skills in Literacy and Numeracy, to ensure students have good foundation for the rest of the year. Teachers are working towards understanding each student and assisting with the emotions and the social difficulties which the students may be encountering. The support of parents and families in this area is essential for any improvement and development to occur.

Our Foundation and Year One students had great fun with the rhythm and movement incursion. This incursion, along with play-based activities in-class, have really helped the students ease into being at school, full-time.

In Year One students have spent a great deal of time learning place value. The students were using the unifix blocks to manipulate ones and tens and when they break off and become a two-digit number. The students found this a great learning experience. They also enjoyed learning about primary and secondary colours. They have been learning about mixing primary colours (blue, red and yellow) that lead to secondary colours (orange, green and purple).



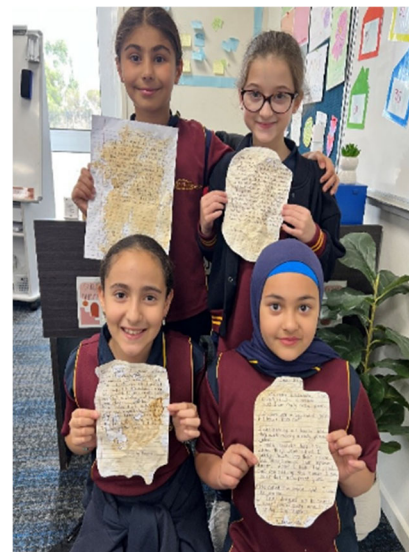
Our Year Two students have thoroughly enjoyed their unit of work on life cycles and things that grow. They were lucky enough to have mealworms and baby chicks that they watched through their life cycles. They finished off the Term with the Wildlife Xposure incursion, where they had the opportunity to learn about, hold, touch and pat some Australian animals, including a snake that took five students to hold!





The Year 3 classrooms have been participating in a Nude Food Challenge by working towards bringing to school Nude Food Lunch boxes to assist with keeping the school environment clean. We are so proud of their efforts thus far and have been rewarding the students for bringing the most nude foods with prizes.

Our Year Four students explored a range of topics in Maths like different strategies to use for addition and subtraction, place value and angles. They have also been practising how to communicate and speak more effectively and confidently through 'The Art of Conversation' activities. The students have also been learning about being sun smart, staying safe and making the right choices. The students have really enjoyed drama and roleplay through improvisations, and they showed great interest in their topic on the First Fleet, Aboriginal History and Citizenship in Integrated Studies.



In Year Six, students focused on Democracy and Parliament in Humanities. They were involved in various activities that engaged in an interactive federal election and learnt about preferential voting and absolute majorities. In Science students conducted experiments related to volcanos using various ingredients. They were also actively involved in class discussions that involved them to think critically. The Year Six students also thoroughly enjoyed their Volcano experiments which taught them various Science and Mathematical skills.

Our Year Three and Five teachers have also been working with students in preparation for NAPLAN, where students have had the opportunity to work on NAPLAN style questions, as well as practising using technology to conduct the assessment. The NAPLAN assessments have been conducted this Term and once the results are released, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

Our Years 2-6 Athletics Day was a great event. Students, teachers, and the parents that came along had a lovely day cheering each other along. Our students did a fantastic job at all events and we are all proud of them for always displaying the Mt Hira College Values at this event. We have an exciting Term Two coming up again filled with a variety of learning opportunities. I wish everyone a safe Term break and a blessed and peaceful Ramadan, full of abundance.



Ms. Natasha Padayachee
Acting Head of Junior School



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to 2023!

The English Domain is pleased to welcome one **new teacher** to our team, Ms. Melinda Agimi (Middle School English).

This year, Middle School students will continue to participate in a literacy program called '**Accelerated Reader**.' There are prizes available for avid readers and classes will compete to read the most books throughout the year. We would also love for parents to encourage their children to continue reading at home.

The **Year Nine Debating Team**, led by Ms. Rahma Amanulla is also running again in 2023. The first debating competition has already taken place, with several enthusiastic Year Nine students attending. The first team to complete included *Safiye Ozer, Amassy Hamid and Fariha Sayyed*. These girls did a fantastic job and were narrowly defeated by the home team.



There will be different groups of students competing in the upcoming rounds – we will be sure to keep you updated.

I would like to share some engaging activities we are using in the classroom to deepen student's understanding of key Mathematical concepts. In Year 8 when teaching the topic algebra, the students were asked to measure the length of their humerus, radius, femur, and tibia. They substituted these values into the required formulae to calculate an estimated value of their height. They also measured their true height and compared the results. It was amazing how close some of the results were to their actual height! This enabled the students to enjoy a practical application of algebra.



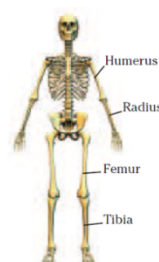
Substitution Activity

The table below shows approximate relationships between height and certain bone lengths for males and females.

Bone	Male	Female
Femur (F)	$81.31 + 1.88F$	$72.85 + 1.95F$
Humerus (H)	$70.64 + 2.89H$	$71.48 + 2.75H$
Radius (R)	$85.93 + 3.27R$	$81.22 + 3.34R$
Tibia (T)	$78.66 + 2.38T$	$74.78 + 2.35T$



Try this!



In Year 7 and 8 when exploring negative integers students completed various puzzles and treasure hunts.

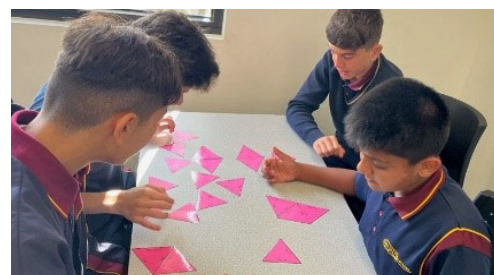
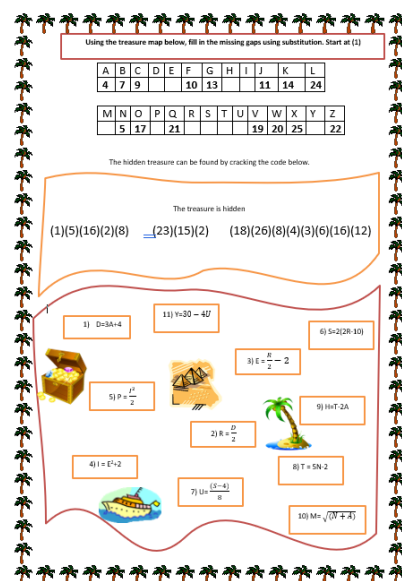
Their understanding of adding and subtracting negative integers helped them crack the code or find the treasure.

In Year 10 we covered the topics equations and indices. The students learned how to simplify expressions. To consolidate their understanding the students participated in a sort of treasure hunt in their classroom. They had to find the solution to one question which led them to the next questions until they completed all the questions correctly. We also played bingo and kahoot mathematical indices games.

In Year 11 we have been developing a deeper understanding of topics by using the CAS TI-Nspire. For example, our Year 11 General students have been using the CAS calculator to analyse data and types of distributions.

Students have developed the skills to sketch boxplots, dot plot, column graphs and histograms on their CAS. They use the graphs to extract key information about the data distribution they are analysing.

We also use various videos, activities, and online platforms to engage our students in their learning of Mathematics, to motivate students to embrace and be able to take ownership of their learning journey.



Science in 2023 is off to an amazing start with hands on activities and practical investigations being undertaken by all year levels this year. In 2023, we will focus on showcasing the amazing work by our students and science staff.

Year 6 Science:

In Year 6 Science this term, students had fun conducting practicals while learning about natural disasters.

Below is Mr. Dylan Gegas engaging students in modelling a volcanic eruption.



Year 7 Science:

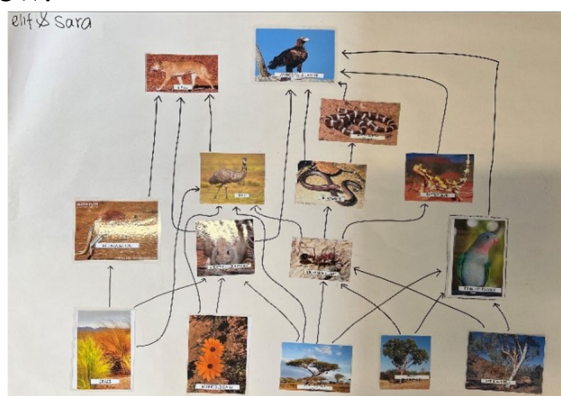
The Year 7 students have enjoyed the different practical activities we have done in science this term. Their favourite part was practicing the use of Bunsen burners and successfully receiving their Bunsen burner licence.

Year 8 Science:

Year 8 students have shown great enthusiasm in science by achieving great results in their Working with scientific data assessments. They have also developed their skills in observing cells, the building blocks of life, under the microscopes. This entailed setting up, finding specimens, and drawing images they have observed.

Year 9 Science:

In Year 9 Science this term, students have enjoyed researching ecosystems and constructing food webs to represent interaction between biotic (living) factors in a specific ecosystem. It was great to see students working collaboratively and creatively to produce some excellent presentations, as seen in the photos below.



Year 10 Psychology Elective:

Our Year 10 Psychology Elective students made play dough to create their own brain models this term! Students worked collaboratively to make the play dough, worked hard to include information on the four lobes of the brain, their main functions and what happens if the brain is damaged. Well done to our Year 10 students!



VCE Psychology Unit 1:

Year 11 students put Piaget's theory into practice by testing components on Foundation students.



VCE Psychology Unit 3

Students in Year 12 applied their learning of the nervous system and neurons via visual representations.



VCE Biology Unit 3

The students in VCE 3 and 4 Biology are conducting an experiment to identify the presence of proteins and the digesting of this protein into its monomers using egg white. Foods such as eggs, cheeses, meat, and legumes contain a lot of protein. Before the protein in our food can be used by the cells of the body, it must be digested into amino acids (monomers of proteins), the building blocks of proteins. These amino acids can then be absorbed into the bloodstream and transported to all the cells of the body.



VCE Biology Unit 1

The VCE unit 1 and 2 students have investigated the different roles of organelles within plant and animal cells. They used microscopes to determine differences in cell types and constructed their own cells using mix and match cards with images. Students also investigated why cells are limited in size, and how the phospholipid membrane boundary of cells determine which molecules can move in and out.

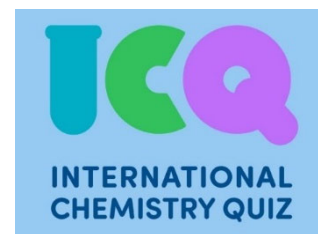


Science Competitions

Between May and July in 2021, Mt Hira students will have the opportunity to participate in the following national and international Science competitions. Monitor future editions of the newsletter and Compass notices for competition dates and registration requirements. For more information, the link for each competition is given below.

The Big Science Competition (<https://www.asi.edu.au/programs/big-science-competition/>)

International Chemistry Quiz (<https://icquiz.org/>)





Welcome to Term 1, 2023! We've had a productive and positive start to the year in the Humanities Domain.

We welcome three new domain members this year and look forward to their expertise and enthusiasm in the classroom: Ms Hannah Pilcher, Ms. Melinda Agimi and Ms. Aminath.

Hannah Pilcher (right) is teaching VCE Legal Studies and Humanities. Her favourite topic in Humanities is Legal Studies/Civics & Citizenship because it provides insight into social justice movements, how we can work together to promote justice and harmony, and how we can improve our world through developing the law, pressuring for change, and getting involved in the political sphere.

Melinda Agimi (middle) is teaching English and Humanities. Her favourite topic in Humanities is History as it provides an understanding of what has shaped the world in which we live today. One thing she is looking forward to this year is making a positive contribution to the Mt Hira Community.

Meet Ms. Aminath (left) who is teaching Year 7 Humanities and VCE Business Management. Her favourite topic in Humanities is Business and Economics because she pursued her academic growth and most of her career in that pathway.

What's happening across our Domain?

Our Year 6 cohort were involved in an incursion that covered the topic of Democracy and Parliament Process. They participated in a Federal Parliament role play, to illustrate how bills become laws. Students formed political parties and added their own opinions to the debate, allowing their creativity to flourish.



Year 7 have been learning about Federation and the Constitution as well as referendums and types of power in the government. They have developed an understanding of the three branches of government and more recently have been preparing an Oral Presentation on a civic issue to discuss with the class. In Week 9, students went on an excursion to Parliament House and Melbourne Museum to explore Australian values and democracy.



The Year 8 students are learning about our freedoms as Australian citizens, more specifically, Freedom of Religion in Australia.

The Year 9 cohort created Political Party posters to demonstrate their understanding of Political Parties in Australia, as well as their understanding of the party's key principals and policies.

The Year 10 cohort completed an enquiry project into Australian Peacekeeping missions after learning about the UN and Australia's role in a global context.

We hope everyone has a safe and happy break and look forward to returning refreshed and ready to learn!



Year 11 VET hospitality

In Year 11 Hospitality, we have been learning about workplace hygiene and how to participate in safe work practices. The VET students put these skills to practice in the kitchen environment making dishes such as tea sandwiches and smoothies. The students have been busy learning how to fill in incident reports and hazard identification documents. They have also created their own induction manuals.

Our current unit "source information on the hospitality industry" is allowing us to get creative and research new and emerging technologies in the varying hospitality sectors. The students will soon be sharing their project finding with the class. Who knew there was such things as robot waiters and drone delivery services?

Next term, the year 11 VET students will begin their café duties at Mt Hira's La Cafe. This is a fantastic opportunity which will equip the students with hands-on front of house experience.



Year 12 VET hospitality

The year 12 VET students have started off the year learning about how to prepare and serve espresso coffee. The students are doing an amazing job mastering their milk texturing techniques, monitoring espresso extraction and learning how to make the drinks on the coffee menu. The year 12's have been working in La Cafe at lunch times practicing their customer service skills and making the drinks following the correct sequence of service.

We have recently introduced some iced beverages such as frappes, milkshakes and smoothies, and the students were responsible for menu development and creating and/or adapting the recipes.

The students have learnt more about processing financial transaction and practicing completing reconciliation forms and calculating the end of shift takings. These are valuable skills to prepare the students for their future employment pathways.

VET 11 VET Business

The Year 11 VET Business students have been busy analysing Workplace Health and Safety where they have been tasked to identify workplace hazards, create incident reports, and discuss ways to eliminate or minimise the hazard from occurring. Furthermore, they are working on a Sustainability unit that will culminate in an excursion to Myuna Farm in Term 2. They are currently completing a major project which is a Waste, Energy and Water Audit. This will enable them to review their current practice and identify ways they can operate more sustainably.

VET 12 VET Business

Year 12 students have been exploring how to structure and organise their workload. This includes organising personal work schedules, monitoring and obtain feedback on practices, which will be beneficial for when they enter the workforce. Additionally, they have been examining the importance of creating Key Performance Indicators and setting goals to maintain competence in the workplace. At the beginning of Term 2, they will be going on an excursion to the Yakult factory in Dandenong.

What we have been learning in food technology?

We have been very busy in Food technology this year learning about workplace hygiene procedures that we will need to apply in our kitchen such as washing our hands and ensuring our hair is off our face. The students are starting to familiarize themselves with risk assessments and work health and safety procedures, this is a continuous topic. In our first practical of the year the students learnt how to stone fruit and we practiced our basic knife skills of slicing and dicing. We also learnt about the colour coded chopping boards, and which colour we need to use for Fruits and Vegetables.



In class we are discussing the Australian guide to healthy eating and the importance of making healthy and informed food choice. We have analysed some basic nutrition elements of our foods and spoken about vitamins and minerals. It was interesting to see the nutritional benefit of some of the ingredients we are working with. We have a healthy eating campaign project coming up. The students are looking forward to using food photography to photograph the meals and using digital technologies to create a promotional billboard.

Each week the students are building their literacy, numeracy, and oral communication skills in reading recipes, measuring ingredients, communicating effectively with group members, and writing predictions and/or reviews.

Our unit on dairy saw the students learn about the pasteurization process and the importance of this. The students have begun practiced the technical skills of separating eggs, whisking cream, whisking eggs, and folding mixtures. As our skills improve, the recipes and activities are becoming more complex.

The classroom renovations are expected to start soon, and we are extremely excited for our brand-new commercial kitchen facilities.

Thank you to all the families that have purchased the school aprons.





This term has been full of amazing sporting opportunities for our students to participate in.

Senior and intermediate interschool sports kicked off our events with students competing against other schools in the Dandenong region in volleyball and tennis. We have also sent out a team of Year 8 and Year 7 students to represent us in volleyball in week 5 and 10.

Athletics day displayed our student's team spirit. Our students participated in a variety of different track and field events with the goal of taking home the win for their house. Green team ended up taking home 1st place followed by red in 2nd, Blue came 3rd and Yellow came in at 4th place.

Our middle and senior school PE classes ran an athletics unit in the lead up to the day so that students were prepared for the day. We have also been running a net/wall sports unit with our year 7-8 students. This unit has provided them with an opportunity to enhance their volleyball and tennis skills.

Junior HPE



F-1 students have been exploring their fundamental movement skills through their participation in a variety of PMP activities and a dance incursion.

2-5 students got to attend the swimming program where they enhanced their aquatic skills. On the last day of the program students got to participate in a water safety session. Students learnt about water safety and what to do if they find themselves in a dangerous water scenario.



Every Thursday our Year 5 and 6 students have been participating in an interschool sports competition against other local primary schools. Our students were able to pick to compete in volleyball, tennis, cricket, and basketball. This will continue next term when students participate in a new team sport against local school.

Our junior school students displayed incredible enthusiasm at the Year 2-6 Athletics Day competition. Students eagerly represented their house colours in a variety of different track and field events. Blue took home the win followed by Green in 2nd place, Yellow in 3rd place and Red in 4th.



Dear Parents and Students,

We are delighted to update you on the progress of the Arabic and Turkish LOTE department at our school. As we continue into 2023, our focus remains on motivating our students to learn Turkish and Arabic while catering to their individual needs and levels of competency.

We have been using various online resources such as Alef-Ba-Ta, www.arabilicious.com, www.studystack.com, www.Fluentin3months.com, and YouTube, which have proven to be effective in enhancing our students' language skills.



Recently, our students participated in Harmony Day, where they showcased their language skills and learned about the importance of cultural diversity and inclusivity.

We are excited about the upcoming International Children's Day celebrations, and our Grade 1 Turkish class is preparing a song titled "23 Nisan Kutlu Olsun" and "Happy 23rd April song." Additionally, our Year 9 students will present a "23 Nisan poem," and Year 7 student Zeynep Sahin will present a "23 Nisan Speech." Our Grade 5 students will also sing the "Back to School" song in Arabic.

We encourage parents to support their children's language learning journey by practicing with them at home. Lesson plans are uploaded on Compass, which you can access anytime to stay informed about your child's progress.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to help your child succeed in their language studies.





Art Throughout Mt.Hira College

In art this term we have been focusing on our fine motor skills from Grade 3 to Year 10. Students have experimented with various art forms and have created their art finals using numerous materials like oil paint, Ebru Sanati, Quick dry clay, paper Mache, digital art, free hand drawing and lino cut.

Students have spent vast majority of the term focusing and researching ways in which the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders art could relate back to their identity and how they can incorporate the traditional custodians of the land into their work. We have had excellent results with senior school finals on how they have related their cultures and aspects of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders traditions with their own.



Whilst focusing on fine motor skills, our primary cohort had the opportunity to learn about dissecting an image to its finest core detail to understand the meaning behind what it portrays. Students are now aware that all art forms they see have a deeper meaning than 'just a painting' or 'just a picture'. We have learnt to break down an art piece and look for a meaning that relates back to yourself. There is no right or wrong answer in how you interpret an artwork, it is how that piece has connected with you that has brought your interpretation out.

As Ramadan was fast approaching whilst creating our finals, we got to preparing decorations for our school community to get into the Ramadan spirit early. From primary to middle to senior school, all cohorts helped in decorating, writing notes and inspirational quotes for our Ramadan walls displayed all around the school.

We have overall had an amazing start to the year and cannot wait to see the amazing art works our students will create in term 2.



2023 has started off on a positive note, most students have transitioned quite well and now that lockdown is a distant memory, some students still struggle with Social Anxiety and how to regulate their nervous system. My role is to help navigate this for them, below are some self-help and emergency contact details for when not at school:

SELF-HELP STRATEGIES FOR SOCIAL ANXIETY

Learning about anxiety, this is a very important first step since it helps you to understand what is happening when you are feeling uncomfortable in social situations. All the worries and physical feelings you are experiencing have a name: ANXIETY. Learn the facts about anxiety.

FACT 1: Anxiety is normal and adaptive because it helps us prepare for danger (for instance, our heart beats faster to pump blood to our muscles so we have the energy to run away or fight off danger). Therefore, the goal is to learn to manage anxiety, not eliminate it.

FACT 2: Anxiety can become a problem when our body tells us that there is danger when there is no real danger. Learning about social anxiety, people with social anxiety tend to fear and avoid social situations. It is normal to feel anxious in social situations from time to time. Social anxiety becomes a problem when it becomes quite distressing and starts getting in the way of your ability to function and enjoy life. However, it is important to note that you are not alone. Social anxiety is one of the most common anxiety disorders. The good news is that there are strategies you can use to help manage your social fears.

People with social anxiety disorder tend to learn more details about anxiety, know your Social Anxiety.

Services, helplines in Victoria:

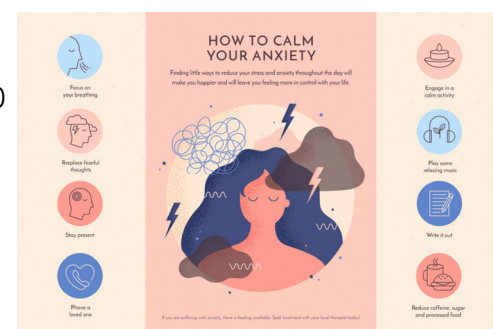
Centre for Muslim Wellbeing: www.cmw.org.au – 0427 668 010

Men's help line: www.mensline.org.au – 1800 041 612

Beyond Blue: www.beyondblue.org.au – 1300 224 636

Lifeline: www.lifeline.org.au – 13 11 14

Headspace: www.headspace.org.au – 1800 367 968



In term one, we looked into programs around Stress and Anxiety delivered by Brainstorm productions, an incursion. Wired is an interactive theatre experience that tackles some of the big issues affecting Australian students, including social isolation, bullying, online safety, school stressors, family relationships and pressure from social media. It addresses barriers to help-seeking and provides strategies for resilience, problem-solving, goal-setting, and positive mental health.

Dear Parents/Carers,

As-Salaamu Alaykum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,

In the Holy Qur'an, our Lord Almighty (swt) states as follows, **"And spend [in the way of Allah] from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you and he says, 'My Lord, if only You would delay me for a brief term so I would give charity and be among the righteous.'"**

Infaq means to offer to other people from the property and wealth and from the blessings Allah (swt) has entrusted to us. It means to protect, observe, and guard those in need. It means to strive to be useful to our family, relatives, neighbours and, in short, all humanity. Infaq leads to rehabilitation of the body and soul. Infaq leads to rehabilitation of the society as well. It reinforces the harmony, peace, unity and solidarity between us. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows, **"And from their properties was [given] the right of the [needy] petitioner and the deprived."**

We would like to sincerely thank the College Community for their contributions during this month towards our Ramadan Food Drive Campaign which was held between Friday 3rd of March to Monday 20th of March 2023. The students had the opportunity to do the packaging and distribution. You may watch the video on our social media platforms.

The Religious Education Departments contribution to Harmony Day through the practical application of the ayah from Surah al-Hujurat: **"O Mankind! We created you from a single pair of male and female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other; not so you may despise each other. Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is he who is the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted."** celebrated our diversity by having a stall which encompassed zamzam water, premium Ajwa dates, Nasheed karaoke, face painting, hijab style booth and many more activities. We had the students Inaugural nasheed group performance during Harmony Day assembly.

During this term selected year levels had the opportunity to attend Mosque Tours and experience the practical propagation of our sublime religion. We had various schools and organisations visit Keysborough Turkish Islamic and Cultural Centre (Keysborough Mosque) to learn about Islam and the Muslim community.



Ramadan has arrived. Ramadan, is an exalted invitation for us from Allah (s.w.t). It is a call for us to recite the Holy Qur'an, our guide to the true path, more and contemplate more. It is the best opportunity for us to strengthen our will and discipline our self through fasting. With suhoor and iftar meals, it means peace and

abundance of divine blessings in our homes. With tarawih prayers we perform in addition to the five daily prayers, it means health for our body and tranquillity for our souls. We stand in prayer with our brothers and our sisters in, worshiping Allah (S.W.T). With the zakat, fitr, and sadaqah we give, it means fondness between our relatives, neighbours and all our brothers and sisters. The greatest responsibility that falls upon us as Muslims in this month is to accommodate this blessed guest in the best place in our hearts and to accept this divine invitation wholeheartedly.

Ramadan Kareem! I wish you all a happy Ramadan. May our hearts and intellectual world find healing with the Qur'an. May the month of Ramadan be conducive to humanity overcoming all kinds of troubles and diseases.

May Ramadan al-Sharif be blessed for all of us.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been an exciting term for the students! We have spent the term planning, exploring and deliberating different career and education options for the students. We started with the Careers and Math Excursion at Monash University with our Year 10 students, where students were able to learn more about the university, its courses and any prerequisites.



Another exciting program that the students were introduced to was the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program, which is a scholarship Melbourne University. The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program is an academical enrichment program designed to support high achieving Victorian year 11 and 12 students and provides many programs and resources. This includes access to their 11 libraries across Melbourne to students as well as their academic skills services.

I have recently been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at Melbourne university. I was one of the 1300 applicants and one of the only 500 students that were able to get in. There are many programs provided such as campus tours, study seminars and revision lectures for students doing units 3 and 4 in VCE. One of the significant opportunities it provides is that students who are enrolled into the program have a guaranteed entry into the university upon achieving a 96 ATAR. I am very excited to be part of this program. I believe that the opportunities provided will help me develop myself both from an academical perspective and a more personal perspective.

The above is written by **Ceyda Sahin**.

Lastly, we will have a Careers Expo on the 4th of May for the Year 12 students. There will be many universities attending, with the courses and opportunities they offer as well as all the information the students may need. InshaAllah, this will help many students narrow down where they would like their careers to go as well as assist other students to widen their views on their potential careers and education paths.

This has been a really eventful and exciting term, and we hope that the future terms provide the same opportunities for our students. We look forward to guiding and assisting the students through these exciting opportunities. As for the Year 12's, always strive for what you want and you will find your way there!