### RINGWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER







Thurs. 7 Dec Year 7 Celebrations Day
Fri. 8 Dec Reports Published

Fri. 8 - Mon. 11 Dec Junior School Production
Mon. 11 Dec End of Year Program Begins

Tues. 12 Dec Orientation Day -

2024 Year 7 Students

Tues. 12 Dec Presentation Evening

The Round, Nunawading

#### **2024 SCHOOL YEAR START:**

Year 7, 9 and 12 Wednesday 31st January 2024 Whole School Thursday 1st February 2024







### **PRINCIPAL TEAM**

#### FROM THE PRINCIPAL



#### **Learning Focus**

The learning focus for this month is strongly concentrated on assessment and reporting. Year 12 VCE exams are finished, and year 11 and 10 students are in the middle their final assessment period. Year 11 students have completed a year 12 transition period where they will begin their year 12 studies.

At the junior level, students have completed their learning reflections regarding the school year. Primary focus in this area has been identifying areas of success, challenge, and growth. These reflections will be made available to families with reports.

#### College values: Respect- Resilience- Achievement

A brief reminder of our college values, as determined by students, families and staff. In this month's newsletter our focus is on ACHIEVEMENT.

Achievement means trying your best. It means looking at opportunities to improve and setting achievable goals for yourself so that over time you grow and develop your skills and confidence in yourself.

#### **Remembrance Day**

Remembrance Day is a Memorial Day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. This year, I had the privilege of escorting five of our senior students: Hannah, Matthew, Neena, Nem and Imogene. The represented the College respectfully and were able to lay wreath in honour of fallen heroes from our extensive community.



#### Valedictory

The College community was able to gather on Wednesday November 15 to acknowledge the year 12 class of 2023. Congratulations to our class of 2023 on their commitment and dedication during challenging times. They have contributed proactively and productively to the College over six years. We were able to acknowledge each student individually as well as celebrate award winners in the VCE program. I would like to thank the senior school leadership team for their support, encouragement, leadership and care of this cohort during their final year of formal education. Well done!

#### **Art Exhibition**

Well done to the visual arts team led by Ms Mihailidis on the art exhibition this year. The quality and standard of work on display was outstanding and included displays from all year levels across many genres. I am always amazed by the talent, creativity, and passion that young people bring to their work and this year was no exception. Congratulations to all students who displayed their work and thank you to all staff for their encouragement and leadership. Thank you to past student, Holly McLennan-Brown for her presentation and the Brian James from the Heritage and Alumni group on the presentation of the RSC 70th anniversary artwork.

#### **Band Tour**

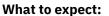
The instrumental music team has returned from another super successful Band Tour. This tour develops students confidence in performing, provides opportunities for collaboration and develops independence and resourcefulness in our performers. During their week away, students performed in a range of primary schools. Feedback from these schools has been, once again, been overwhelmingly positive. Well done to the IM team!

#### 70th Birthday Celebrations- Saturday March 16, 2024.

A diary reminder for everyone! The College will be celebrating its 70th birthday in 2024. A special open day will be held in honour of this event. Details below:

When: Saturday March 16th, 2024
Where: Ringwood Secondary College

**Time:** 12-4pm



- · Tours of new facilities
- Induction of members college halls
- Displays including photos and interviews with past students
- · Commemorative booklets
- Musical items

#### **Reports and Canteen Closure**

Reports will be published on and formal classes for Years 7 to 9 will conclude on Friday 8th of December. A reminder to families that due to construction works and the demolition of some old buildings, canteen facilities will not be available on site from Monday December 4. We apologise for this inconvenience.

#### Rosina Fotia

Principal



#### FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



#### From Mrs Stathatos

Assemblies, assessments and adjustments all play a role at this particular time of the year. Adjusting to the expectations of the following year at a higher year level is occurring at Years 10 and 11 now that examinations have finished.

Teachers have delivered lessons to prepare for the 2024 academic program. City Week for Year 9 students is highly anticipated. It is a week where behaviour is expected to be exemplary while students represent the College as they explore the city.

One shift in Year 7-10 student reporting is the introduction of student reflections of their learning this semester. I have been so impressed with the detail and understanding that students have of their abilities and challenges and their articulation of their goals to make improvements.

Our leaners are self- reflecting and ready to do their best in all circumstances.

Our association with universities in their preservice teacher program has ended for the year and in recognition of his work in mentoring pre-service teachers, Declan Trounson has been awarded the Melbourne University, Faculty of Education's Certificate of Appreciation for supporting the Master of Teaching Candidates.

Well done Declan and a huge thank you to all teachers who supported pre-service teachers this year.

Good news regarding our Expression of Interest to beautify our College entrance. We were successful in our grant application through the Cultural Understanding and Safety Initiative and we begin the process of consulting with representatives from our Indigenous communities to fulfill the project's aims.

Thank you, in particular, to the student voices of the college whose ideas formed the basis of this project.

#### **Eleni Stathatos**

Assistant Principal



#### From Ms Fedrizzi

November finds our junior classrooms finalising assessments, year 10s studying for and completing exams, year 11s transitioning into year 12 and, staff consolidating semester reports to capture and summarise students' learning.

Examinations and timed assessments can be challenging however, they also provide our students with the opportunity to observe their ability to work in timed conditions and to practise their mindful focus techniques that are actively taught through Bounce. In particular, the use of reading time in examinations is often overlooked and, when used effectively, can really help students settle their minds and show their capacity when the writing time commences. At home, students should be considering the ways that they can check their learning through reviewing their notes, guizzing their knowledge of key terms and processes, and generally using the techniques they have learnt in their classes and in the Elevate study skills sessions undertaken in Bounce and consolidated in their classes throughout the year.

At this stage of the year, reflecting on the difference between homework and study can be useful: homework is finishing off tasks to help entrench knowledge while study is self-directed where students use feedback to refine their knowledge. With these values at the centre of our work, students are reminded to see if they can be their best self and to actively use their teachers' feedback when completing classwork, homework and study. In this way, students exercise their respect for self, and take opportunities to be resilient and see their achievement grow.

The assessment and reporting review team has finalised the 6 new positive learning behaviours that are directly aligned to the 3 RSC values as seen in the table here. Thanks to all those students, staff and parents who contributed throughout the consultation process.

Currently the team is creating some visual communication and notes to support a common and rich understanding of how our values look, feel and sound in our classrooms and the school yard.

RSC Values	Positive learning behaviours
Respect	Shows respect for learning, self and others     Uses organisational tools effectively
Resilience	Shows persistence and <u>resilience</u> Actively engages in learning
Achievement	Justifies thinking and <u>reasoning</u> Uses feedback to reflect and <u>improve</u>

As previously communicated in the Compass News Feed, here are some important reminders for our families:

- The school canteen's last day of opening is Friday 1st of December
- The last formal classes will occur on Friday 8th of December
- Reports will be published on Friday 8th of December
- Year 7 celebration day at Lilydale Lake will occur on Thursday 7th of December
- End of Year Program begins Monday 11th of December – please provide consent if your child has your permission to stay home

#### Agatha Fedrizzi

Assistant Principal



#### **From Mr Stirling**

Two artworks by Jasmine Lui Year 12 have been selected to take pride of place in the corridor of the college's Administration Building. The addition of these creative, vibrant and thought-provoking works has improved the space whilst also showcasing Jasmine's magnificent skills and talent.

The college thanks Jasmine for offering her works to be displayed and enjoyed by the college community. Jasmine has described her two artworks as follows:



#### ARTWORK #1: 'Detachment'

The overarching idea explored within the artwork is escapism, capturing an individual escaping from society and dissatisfaction and incites to enter an unknown world centred around joy and prosperity. The piece is intended to communicate the negative emotions one may feel by the expectations of society, feeling trapped in their discontent and saddened by the bleakness of reality within the digital age. However, this melancholy is juxtaposed with imagery that highlights how escaping from societal conventions can allow people to live authentically and find joy in life, such as individuals dancing. Furthermore, with the subject matter of people embraced with gentle smiles, the work suggests that human connection can act as an escape from the world, with loved ones being a place to confide in. This expression of the importance of connection also extends to ideas of reconnecting with nature, illustrated through the inclusion of fauna and flora to liven the world of my artwork.



#### **ARTWORK #2: 'Sparking Wires'**

The key idea exhibited within the work is escapism in fictional media and pop culture, with an emphasis on the negative ramifications it can generate when consumed in excess. The piece aims to illustrate the superficiality of mass-produced media within a consumerist society through featuring imagery of common archetypes and caricatures in media forms such as anime. Further, the work additionally suggests the excessive, inescapable, and all-consuming nature of fictional sources for escapism which is endlessly being produced. This was expressed in the collage-like composition of my piece, filled with various toys and unique characters piled upon one another. Additional themes explored in the work was isolation within the digital age, with individuals becoming immersed in the online realm and growing detached from their reality and peers.



**Tony Stirling**Acting Assistant Principal

### FROM THE OFFICE

## Heritage and Alumni Group Preparing for Celebration Day in 2024.

This year has been busy, with most of the committee's time focussed on the special Celebration Day on Saturday, 16th March 2024.

It will be a day to reflect on 70 years of development of this college and see inductions of former students who have achieved recognition for their work in the community in a range of endeavours over many years.

Visitors will be able to see how this college developed from a single building on bare, sometimes muddy, ground to what we see today, with 3 new buildings employing modern teaching aids and a great environment in which the students can enjoy learning. Feel free to move around the display areas at will, but note the times of the scheduled events to appreciate the full story.

Here is a summary of what will be available on that day.

#### **Junior School:**

At midday there will be a "Welcome to Country" to open the day, presented by a former student from a local indigenous group. There will also be musical sessions performed by RSC students in the foyer.

At 2.00PM there will be the inductions of past students into the various RSC Halls of Recognition where you will hear how they used their skills and shared some time to serve their community.

The foyer will have a Kiosk with memorabilia and information about RSC, with people to answer questions. Commemorative mugs will be on sale.

In Room 404, there will be free refreshments available all afternoon.

There will be a photographic display of the 70 years, that follow the development and changes made in each decade. Step though time and be reminded of the school that grew from 226 students in 1954 to 1600 students now. What a journey this has been for all the teachers, students, and staff during those 70 years.

All of this will be on display to share with others, so visit us to share this special occasion.

Put this date in your diary – Saturday, 16th March 2024 from midday to 4.00PM.

#### Library:

There will be a photographic history display of those 70 years showing students, teachers, excursions, reminders of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, the school sporting events, travel and more. On the video screens you will see and hear former students talking about their experiences at RHS/RSC. These screenings will be continuous during the afternoon.

#### **Senior School:**

Select memorabilia, including pennants of inter-school sporting achievements over many years of competitions. We invite you to take home the pennants that interest you – free! Perhaps you were a member of a team event for which a pennant was awarded. Take home that pennant to remember your days at RHS or RSC.

#### **STEM Building:**

The latest of the buildings which will be completed this year will be included in the tour.

#### **Guided Tours:**

Tours will take place at 12.30PM and again at 3.00PM. You will hear the history of the buildings, see the 60th Anniversary bollards, created for that event, with the names of students who will be remembered by having a name plaque on the bollards. Find out how to have your name plaque added by asking at the anniversary Kiosk in the Junior School foyer.

I look forward to meeting you on Saturday, 16th March 2024 to share our 70th Anniversary celebrations together.

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday time with family and friends.

#### **Barry Ring - Convenor**

RSC Heritage and Alumni Group

### FROM JUNIOR SCHOOL



#### **ASSEMBLIES**

The last two weeks we celebrated the achievements of Junior School, including the Art exhibition awards, the Maths competition awards, Junior school production and our Junior School leaders.

We congratulate our students on displaying our school values during these events. Congratulations to all awards recipients. Keep up the great work.



#### **CELEBRATION DAY - YEAR 7**

On Thursday 7th December, all year 7 students will be celebrating the completion of Year 7 at Lilydale Lake.

The students will meet at school at 9.00 am in their PE uniforms and be returned to school at 2.30 pm. The students need to bring a water bottle, their lunch and a hat.

The students will have an opportunity to play on the playground and water park, walk the lake and participate in organised games and will be presented with various awards celebrating their time in year 7. There will be no classes at school that day for year 7. Parents, please consent to this event on Compass. There is no payment required to attend.

## SMALL SCHOOLS TRANSITION EVENTS

On Thursday 23rd November and 30th November the Junior School welcomed some of our new year 7s into the College. This gave students their first opportunity to meet new friends and teachers and familiarise themselves with the College.

A great run of activities, including;

- (1) Say your name without showing your teeth!
- (2) 'Clusters' (ie. Find one thing in common with 'x' amount of students)
- (3) Line up in birthdate order ... without talking!
- (4) Heads / Shoulders / Knees / Toes / CONE!
- (5) Rock / Paper Scissors Champion of the World, and
- (6) 5 minute paper plane design competition in pairs to end the session.

We look forward to seeing them all on December 12th.

#### **FOOD DRIVE**

St Vincent de Paul donate money to the Junior School each year which we use to fund junior school programs. As a thanks in return we run a food drive for vulnerable families. We are asking RSC families to drop off donations of non perishable food items to the Junior School building to be placed under the Christmas Tree. Can donations please be delivered by Friday 15th December to be passed on to St Vincent de Paul.

#### LOCKER CLEAN OUT

Students in Year 7 and 8 will have their last day of classes on Friday 8th December. Students will need to clean out their lockers on this day and take their padlocks home ready to be used again in 2024.

#### TABLE TENNIS STATE FINALS

Good luck to our year 8 Table Tennis boys team who will be competing at the State finals this week. We wish them all the best on the day and are very proud of their achievements so far.

#### **Kathryn Mahoney**

Junior Sub School Leader

## FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL



This Term we were lucky enough to hold a Wellbeing Day for all of our Year 9 and Year 10 students. This was run by REACH, FVREE and The Tomorrow Man/Woman. This day aimed to foster a sense of resilience and well-being among students as well as focussing on mental health and emotional well-being.

The activities and discussions encouraged students to openly express their feelings, break down stereotypes, and foster a supportive environment for each other.

The program also included interactive workshops, mindfulness activities, and discussions on mental health, equipping students with valuable tools to navigate the challenges of adolescence.



On top of this our Year 9 and Year 10 students also had the pleasure of having a presentation by Boori Pryor.

This was a celebration of Indigenous culture and storytelling. Through Boori Pryor's engaging narratives, students gained a deeper understanding of the rich history and traditions of Australia's First Nations people, promoting cultural awareness and appreciation.



Finally, the academic year concluded with the completion of exams for our Year 10s and some of our Year 9s.

This experience not only tested their academic knowledge but also served as a testament to their resilience and ability to manage the pressures of assessment. Well done to all who have sat these exams to round out the year.

#### **Rhett Jordan**

Middle Sub School Leader

### FROM SENIOR SCHOOL



It has been a very busy month for the students (and staff) in Senior School!

Student have completed their final classes for 2023, along with undertaking their Year 12 VCAA and Year 11 exams.









On the 15th of November we celebrated with the Class of 2023 and their families at the Year 12 Valedictory Dinner. This was a fantastic event with over 650 guests in attendance to celebrate students having completed their final year of secondary schooling.

Thank you to all the students from the Class of 2023 and the contributions they have made over the past six years at Ringwood Secondary College. We wish them well as they embark on new and exciting challenges that lay ahead.



As a team we would also like to thank all the families and individuals who have supported the students from the Class of 2023 over their years of secondary schooling. This support and encouragement has been important for all students to succeed and achieve their personal best.

#### Matt Tucker

Senior Sub School Leader

### **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM**



We are delighted to share the outstanding success of one of our former graduated international students who has achieved remarkable heights in their academic journey.

In 2020, Mengyu (Afra) YU was the Dux of Ringwood Secondary College and scored 99.25 in her ATAR.

In 2021, she was honoured with the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Academic Prize at Monash University. This prestigious recognition is a testament to Afra's dedication, intellectual prowess, and commitment to excellence. She demonstrated exceptional skills and knowledge in the field, earning her the title of Unit Winner. We take great pride in celebrating Afra's accomplishments and consider her a shining example of the calibre of international students who graduate from our college.

This success story serves as an inspiration to current and future students, showcasing the heights they can reach through hard work, passion, and a commitment to academic excellence. Congratulations to Afra on this well-deserved achievement!



Pharmaceutical Science First Year Exhibition - Mengjia (Afra) Yu



This award is proudly sponsored by Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

#### Mengjia (Afra) Yu



Mengjia (Afra) Yu is an international student from China, she first came to Australia in 2019. She is a dedicated Pharmaceutical Sciences student who is especially interested in medicinal chemistry research. She looks forward to implementing the organic and synthetic chemistry theories into practise to manufacture pharmaceutical molecules that would benefit the general public, which is her motivation of studying this course. She firmly believes that hard work is key to excellence and has demonstrated that throughout her studies.

"Hard work always pays off and resilience is the foundation of distinction. Always remember to appreciate the support from family, friends, peers and teachers."

# INVITATION TO OPEN YOUR HOME TO THE WORLD'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

We extend a warm invitation to our vibrant community to consider opening your hearts and homes to become homestay providers for the international students at Ringwood Secondary College. Being a homestay provider is a rewarding and enriching experience that allows you to make a significant impact on a young person's life.

By welcoming an international student into your home, you not only offer them a comfortable living environment but also provide a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and mutual learning. Our students come from diverse backgrounds and are eager to immerse themselves in the local community, sharing their culture while becoming a part of yours.

Becoming a homestay provider is a chance to create lasting connections, forge international friendships, and contribute to the global education experience at Ringwood Secondary College. Your support and hospitality play a crucial role in making our students' time at Ringwood memorable and successful.

If you are interested in becoming a homestay provider or would like more information, please contact our International Student Program Coordinator at <a href="mailto:Shirley.Luong@education.vic.gov.au">Shirley.Luong@education.vic.gov.au</a> and +613 9870 2002.

Thank you for considering this wonderful opportunity!

#### **Shirley Luong**

International Coordinator

### FROM THE OFFICE



#### **CAREERS**

### School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships - Can you Assist?

At Ringwood Secondary College Year 11 and 12 students who study the VCE-Vocational Major have the opportunity to incorporate apprenticeship or traineeship studies into their Program.

Students can elect to start their apprenticeship/traineeship whilst completing their secondary school studies, allowing them to achieve a Year 12 pass in conjunction with paid employment and formal certificate training. School Based Apprenticeship & Traineeship (SBAT) students attend school for 2-3 days per week, attend certificate training at allocated times and complete paid work for the remainder of the week in their chosen industry.

Ringwood Secondary College currently has a number of students searching for suitable employment. If you believe your business may have the capacity to employ an SBAT, we would love to hear from you!

To find out more, please contact Deb Toone, Head Start Coordinator Eastern Metropolitan Hub, on 0493 779 395 or <a href="mailto:deb.toone@education.vic.gov.au">deb.toone@education.vic.gov.au</a>

#### **FACILITIES**

It's a very busy time as the STEM building gets closer to completion.

Next week we are salvaging the remaining Science building prior to demolition and then the following week we are salvaging the last of the 200s prior to their removal. If things go to plan, we will be in the new building by mid December-how exciting!

On the maintenance front recent works include:

- Wellbeing fence
- Installation of nesting boxes for birds and possums
- A/C repairs
- · New signage in Auto
- Chemical disposal
- · Fire upgrades
- OH & S Whole School audit actions

#### **Chris Salisbury**

Facilities Manager

#### **PSW SCHOOL UNIFORM NOTICES**

Please read important information in regards to ordering your uniform for 2024.



Back to School 2024 Retail Shopping Solutions

Friday October 27, 2023

Dear Customer,

onlinue to remain around care and service as we offer our customers different options around epping for their uniform requirements.

queues. Our online facility coupled with the Click & Collect option and the ability to book Itting times through our Retail Booking Service gives flexibility and convenince to all. This service has been a huge success over the past two years and considerably reduced the waitin times for our customers.

forward to your support in relaying this message to your communities.











### **COMMUNITY NOTICES**

#### **WELLBEING**

If you are experiencing financial hardship, hold a current concession card and have children aged 5-18 years who you believe would benefit from being connected with community team sport then contact the college Student Wellbeing Team that will refer your family to this support program.

Children who participate in club sports are more likely to achieve higher levels of development and are more likely to attain a higher level of secondary and tertiary education.

With each successive generation, our lives are becoming more sedentary. The incidence of Obesity, Type II Diabetes and other diet/lifestyle health conditions are all on the rise in Australia despite improved education and awareness of these conditions.

Please email <u>abryant@ringwoodsc.vic.edu.au</u> or <u>shetherington@ringwoodsc.vic.edu.au</u>

#### **Ms Sharlene Hetherington**

Student Wellbeing Coordinator

After Hours Mental



A follow up review to see how things are going
 This service is ideal for people needing:

- Assessment
- Brief intervention
- Navigation of mental health services
- Medication review

This service is free of charge and no appointment is needed.

You can remain anonymous. A Medicare card is <u>not</u> required to access this service.

(05) 9450 9100 | Email: contact@healthability.org.av | NoithAbility | NoithAbilit



Speak to a Mental Health Nurse

In person: 36 Wellington Road, Box Hill, Victoria

Over the phone: 1300 003 509 (freecall)

For more information

MAROONDAH UNITED FC

# FREE!!! SOCCER CLINICS

COME & TRY SOCCER...YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY LIKE IT!

#### CLINIC 1: MIGHTY MINIS (4-6 years)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 5.00pm-6.00pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 5.00pm-6.00pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.00pm-6.00pm

> Venue: Kalinda Primary School Oval (39-49 Kalinda Rd, Ringwood)

#### CLINIC 2: FEARSOME FEMALES (u8-u18)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 6.30pm-7.30pm Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. 6.30pm-7.30pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. 6.30pm-7.30pm

> Venue: Kalinda Primary School Oval (39-49 Kalinda Rd, Ringwood)

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AT: www.maroondahunitedfc.com
OR email Wendy at registration@maroondahunitedfc.com

#### **Calling any Young Creatives Student!**

**What:** Arts in Maroondah is looking for young people (18-25) to share their creative ideas and take part in a new project called Arts Activators.

**When:** Young people will meet regularly with a group of other young artists and get support in making their work.

**Where:** The artwork will be shown/developed/performed at Maroondah Federation Estate in Ringwood, a council-owned community and cultural venue.

Each successful project will have access to a funding pool (\$1500-\$3000) to help bring the project to life.

**How:** More information and available via our website: <u>Arts Activators | Maroondah City Council</u>

Interested young people must complete an <u>Expression of interest form</u> by Tuesday 28 November