

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Newsletter No 4 - 2020

A big thank you to the whole NCAT community!

We're at the end of term two and what a term it has been for everyone. After the weeks of remote learning, we were delighted to have all the students back engaging in face to face learning and making the college vibrant once more. I want to thank the entire community - students, parents & guardians and staff - for your hard work, persistence and patience over the last two months.

There was some wonderful work done by students during the COVID lockdown period and some really thrived. We also had some students who found it difficult to cope with the isolation and the online learning, so much so that we began to run one practical lesson per week for a few Technology classes for the last few weeks of remote learning and had a few students coming during the week to the college. We also had the Year 12 Dance students coming in for individual practice and a SAC.

Teachers worked incredibly hard, learning to use Moodle and Zoom to try and keep the students engaged and get work to them both online. I am proud of the way they worked together to support each other and the progress they made in the use of online tools.

Semester reports

Teachers are finalising their semester reports which will be published at the end of the second week back next term. Students have been supported to complete their work in these last few weeks back. Whilst the reports will have been completed, there is still another 2 week redemption period at the beginning of next term. So if students are behind with their work they have the holidays to catch up and make sure all work is submitted by the end of week 2 at the absolute latest.

School Improvement

We have been seeking feedback from students and teachers on the best aspects of remote learning and what we can take with us moving forward. We will also be seeking feedback from parents so we can capture the positives of the way we teach and learn and the way we work together and communicate as a community.

This week and the first week of Term 3 students will be completing a student feedback survey for each of their subjects on Moodle. The survey, which is anonymous, will give teachers feedback on their teaching practice and is used to review what is working well and what may need to be improved. For example, the feedback from Year 10 students regarding Science last year led to a revamp of the Year 10 Science curriculum for 2020. The feedback will also be discussed with students.

First week of next term, we will also be sending a survey to parents to get their feedback.

Streaming Music Performances on NCATv on YouTube

Unfortunately as a result of the COVID-19 transmission worsening, we will now stream the Music performance this Friday, the last day of term. There will be ensemble performances from Year 11 VCE music students at 7.00pm for their concert FULLSTEZ+, and at 8.00pm there will be performances by Certificate III Music students for their end of term gig.

VCE Exam schedules available

The VCAA has now published exam dates for Year 12 VCE. Performance exams for Music, Dance and Theatre studies students will run from the 12 October to 8th November. The English exam, which is the first exam, is on Tuesday the 10th November. The exam period ends on the 1st December. The GAT is on the 9th September. At this stage we have been informed that VCE results and ATARs will be made available to students on the 30 December. Teachers and the AEU have asked that this date be reviewed so students get results earlier.

Work Placement deferred until October

Because of the pandemic and the disruptions to schooling, we have deferred Work Placement for the Pre-App VCAL students and the General VCAL students to the second and third week of Term 4. This way students can get most if not all of their work completed before they go out on work placement and there is no further break to their learning. There will be no work experience for Year 10s. There are a few exceptions to this but they are approved on a case by case basis.

Mobile phones

Unfortunately, students having mobile phones on them and not putting them in their locker is continuing to be an issue. Mobile phones need to be placed in lockers at the beginning of the day. This is the rule for every school in Victoria. If the situation does not improve next term we will be asking parents to stop their children from bringing mobile phones to school. We do not want to be handling students' phones during a pandemic.

Have a great break!

I know that students and teachers are looking forward to the holidays. Teachers were working all through the last holidays to be ready for remote learning, so they haven't had a break since the beginning of the year. I wish everyone a refreshing break and look forward to Term 3 being a successful one for everyone.

Raffaella Galati-Brown
PRINCIPAL

Payments to NCAT

Please note that the General Office will not be accepting cash payments during Term 3. The following electronic payment methods are accepted:

- EFTPOS at the General Office
- Credit Card over the phone
- Direct deposit into NCAT's account – Please quote the student ID number in the description (eg ABC0001). Please email the college (ncat@education.vic.gov.au) advising what the payment is for.
- BPAY – Please email the college (ncat@education.vic.gov.au) advising what the payment is for, otherwise it will sit as a credit on your account or be allocated to outstanding fees, as we are unable to access reference information.
- Payment Plan (charges only) – Credit Card of your choice is charged on a set fortnightly or monthly basis. Please call the General Office on 9478 1333 to make arrangements.

These procedures will be reviewed regularly, students and parents/guardians will be informed of changes.

Student Attendance

Parents/guardians have been sent emails about any unexplained absences listed in our system. Please log into Compass and provide explanations for all absences so far this year.

If there are absences listed where you believe your student was in class or they are due to a timetabling issue please contact the College and do not amend in Compass as this will affect their attendance record. If there are absences where the student was doing pre-arranged remote learning, or the student was absent due to concerns regarding COVID-19 please contact the college to discuss further.

Automated Text Message

Please note, during Term 2 the automated text message has been deactivated. This will be reinstated from the first day back Term 3.

If a student is marked as 'Not Present' in Period 1 an automated message will be sent to parents/guardians at 9:30am, advising them that the student is absent. Students arriving during Period 1 (9:00am to 9:50am) should go directly to class and make themselves known to their teacher when they arrive. Students arriving after 9:50am MUST report to the General Office to sign in.

No student should leave school grounds without signing out at the General Office, unless they have no scheduled classes for the remainder of the day.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 26 th June | Term 2 ends |
| Monday 13 th July | Term 3 starts |
| Monday 13 th July | Yr 12 VCE Theatre Studies Performance 5.30pm - 6.30pm (invitation only) |
| Tuesday 14 th July | Yr 12 VCE Theatre Studies Performance 6.00pm – 7.00pm (invitation only) |
| Tuesday 21 st July | Semester 1 reports published on Compass |
| Tuesday 28 th July | Year 10 Immunisation |
| Wednesday 29 th July | VET Taster Day for external students - to be confirmed |
| Tuesday 4 th August | Proposed Information Evening – to be confirmed |
| Wednesday 19 th August | School Council |
| Thursday 20 th August | Parent / Teacher / Student Conferences - to be confirmed |
| Friday 18 th September | Term 3 ends |

Black Lives Matter

The murder of George Floyd at the hands of police has galvanised people around the world to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the US. Erik Simonsen wanted to make a statement so she painted a portrait of George Floyd with the words "I Can't Breathe" which has been hung in the college exhibition area. Below is her take on the issue:

For years, governments in the USA and also in Australia have ignored the voices and needs of their Black communities. Now people are taking matters into their own hands and taking back the power.

We've seen that the system is unfair, that history is written differently and negatively for black/brown people. They're seen as a threat from the get go and some police officers assume that they are bad or dangerous as soon as they see them.

The way protestors have reacted in the US, some of them aggressively, is perfectly acceptable. Black people have done many silent/peaceful protests, petitions and gathered donations to support funerals for those killed and the police force, government and President have done nothing.

These protests are the only thing that will get their attention and keep it that way. If Trump and the various state government in the US realise that this is the reaction of the people when a death like George Floyd happens at the hands of police, it will force them to look at their laws and the training of their police forces.



We need to speak up. Fight back. We have now gotten to the point where being silent is becoming the oppressor. If you can go to protests, do so. If you can't, donate and sign petitions when new ones arrive. Re-post videos and photos of the riots and speak your mind. Shout about this and never stop.

I was proud when I saw all the protests not only from black people, but white people too. This has been the biggest reaction to the death of an African American.

These protests will hit the hardest. This will be in history books. No one will ever forget George Floyd.

Erik Simonsen - 10B

Year 12 - 2020

As part of our VCAL Personal Development class we had the opportunity to organise the Year 12 jumpers for 2020. We all worked together to choose what type of jumper and to create a design that everyone was happy with. We did this by creating a survey for all the Year 12 students to complete along with making posters and talking to classes.

Photography by Marcus Newman



After the design stage was finished we organized payments and told students how to pay for the jumpers. On the first day back after remote learning we received our Year 12 jumpers, this was a lovely way to return to school. All students are happy with the final outcome and we finally feel like we are Year 12 students. This is definitely a memorable moment.

Paige Bancroft - YEAR 12 STUDENT / GENERAL VCAL



A Sustainable and Collaborative Project



Carlos Rosales, the Electrotechnology teacher, needed an extra steel trolley for his Solar Panel Project. He discussed the possibility of some students, together with Claude D’Orazio (the Auto teacher) working together and welding a new trolley.

Claude found an old steel desk frame, some steel tube and hinges. Carlos found some small wheels and Auto students Tyler Kenos and Taleisha Roberts they all came up with a design.

Taleisha has recently joined the Pre-App Auto Program and Tyler, who has developed broader experience in welding, worked as a team to produce a very good example of a sustainable project using recycled materials.

The students did all the planning, cutting, measuring and welding for the project.

Tyler will be starting a part-time welding job soon and is seriously considering employment as a welder.



Photography by Luke Fisher

Well done to Tyler, Taleisha, Carlos and Claude.

Daniel Knott
NCAT TECHNOLOGY
EXECUTIVE MANAGER

The First Year Create – Diploma of Visual Arts students have been doing oil paintings of Cacti as part of their painting unit.



Create Zoom Classes



Imagine their trainer's shock when a giant cactus student appeared in their Zoom class! Rose, the cactus in question, is our talented and hilarious Create student who couldn't resist this little morale booster.

Tracy Paterson
PROGRAM MANAGER
FOLIO PREP & CREATE

Year 10 ROCKS

To celebrate the successful semester's work for Year 10 Arts students, teachers nominated an individual from each cohort, who they believe has demonstrated and embodied our school values during Semester 1.



We would like to congratulate the following students:

RESPECT - Kyal Taranto/Charlotte McCrae **ORIGINALITY** - Jasmine King/Erik Simonsen **COURAGE** - Lilli Boyd/Paddy Fitzgerald
KNOWLEDGE- Joel Blaney/Jade Perry **SUPPORT** - Alice Turner/Jasmine Ryder

Natalie Gates
YEAR 10 ARTS COORDINATOR

VET Creative & Digital Media - Animation

Congratulations to the students of Creative and VET Creative and Digital Media Units 3/4 for submitting their animations this term.



The students created a 30 second animation which included animation techniques and character design and was accompanied by sound effect and music. The students all showed off their own unique styles of 2D design.

Marcus Newman / VET CREATIVE AND DIGITAL MEDIA TRAINER

NCAT Recording Studio Setup

The fit out of hardware and the installation of software in the new NCAT Recording Studio and Music Computer Labs has progressed steadily in recent weeks. The system in the Recording Studio features a Slate Ravin MTi Core Station with two multi-touch screens with two large TV monitors attached that can be used as additional monitors, or as slave monitors so that students can clearly see what is happening on the main recording desk.

The system is driven by an Intel Core i9-10980XE Extreme Edition Processor via a Dante network that is linked to a live room attached to the studio, a recital room and the NCAT Auditorium. The live room is fitted with an Aviom 16-Channel Personal Monitor Mixer.

This equipment is state-of-the-art and is providing students with experience in sound production at a professional level. Our thanks goes to NCAT technology student, Jack Meyer, who has been invaluable in setting up this hardware and installing software in the recording studio; and, of course, thanks to our Principal, Raffaella Galati-Brown for her amazing support in the purchase of this great gear.

Photo by Peter Myers



Jack Meyer in the NCAT Recording Studio

*Dr Peter Myers
Head of Music*

Year 10 Podcasting is Back!

As remote learning was wrapping up, the Year 10's began to plan their own podcasts. They researched what was popular and engaging and broke down the conventions of the very popular medium.



The students decided that the best podcasts are the ones where you can tell the hosts are passionate about their topics. So in the podcasting studio Charli, Chloe and Alanah, used their scripts to discuss the topic of their choice... dancing! They talked about all the hilarious stories the three have experienced in their favourite vocation. Should be a great one to listen to when it's finished!

*Marcus Newman
CREATIVE & DIGITAL MEDIA TRAINER*



Ash Bloom's Cajon

After being away for a high percentage of Term 2, the Certificate III Instrument Making & Repair students are back and working enthusiastically on their practice projects.

Pictured is Ash Bloom with his Cajon or Box Drum. These are an older Spanish instrument, also used throughout Morocco and neighbouring regions. In more recent times they have become very popular as an acoustic accompaniment instrument for a lot of Indi artists.

Ash has also been working on guitar necks and an electric body design (pictured background)

Next up we are starting a group project building Xylophones so that students learn how to tune wood to specific tones. These will be donated to local organisations or junior schools for their music programs.

Despite this group of students doing a spectacular job of online learning, we are all really looking forward to some solid workshop time to complete more practical projects.

Mark Russell
MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MAKING & REPAIR

NCAT Students Live Stream

Certificate III Sound Production students have been learning about live streaming and recording live sound. They have been doing practice set-ups for performances recently which will be streamed on NCATv. Social distancing restrictions haven't yet lifted to allow us a live audience, but for now digital audiences can still show their support and enjoy the music on NCATv.

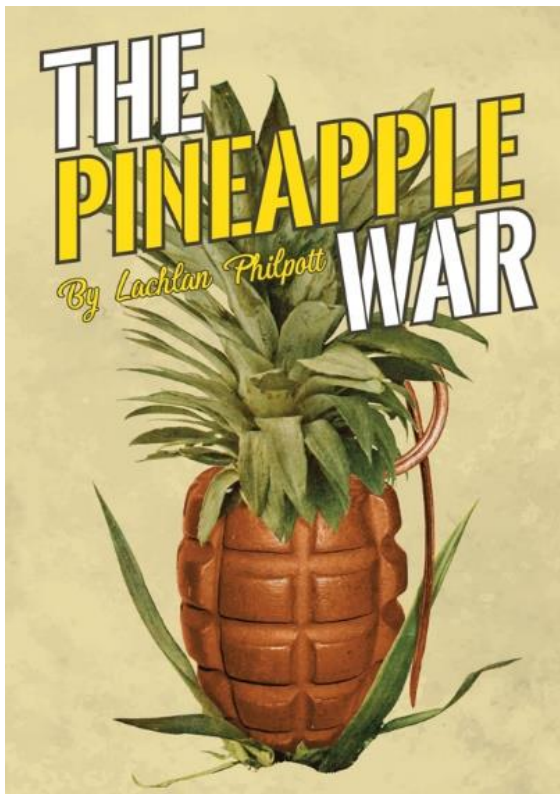


Performances will be pre-recorded and streamed on Friday night, 26th June.

There will be ensemble performances from Year 11 VCE music students at 7.00pm for their concert FULLSTEZ+, and at 8.00pm there will be performances by Certificate III Music students for their end of term gig.

Sound, lighting and video will be produced by 1st and 2nd Year audio students for these two concerts. Following this there will be performances by Year 12 VCE music students.

Zac Lister
MUSIC TECH PRODUCTION



The Pineapple War

Returning to face to face learning has allowed the Year 12 Theatre Studies students to commence rehearsals for their class play, 'The Pineapple War'.

Scheduled for presentation in early Term 3, in our new Auditorium, the play is set in 2022. Queensland is now part of China to resolve a civil war. The rest of Australia has become Nation One, with a conservative government and a return to traditional values. The regime's hopes and dreams are pinned on the next generation and the school formal is a chance for them to celebrate their achievements and history.

After the difficult exams and aptitude tests, the formal is the last night of freedom before these young citizens step up to serve their government.

This formal will end more than their time at school and it will change their future forever.

We wish all our Year 12's the best of luck in preparing for their upcoming assessment.

Natalie Gates
Year 10 Arts Coordinator

'Dear Dexter...'

An advice column, where Dexter answers your most important questions.

❖ *Dear Dexter, Where are you? Madi - VCAL*

Hi Madi,

I am currently in pre-training for my REAL training in the first week of the holidays, to become a fully qualified Therapy Support Dog!

I've already mastered the Dog part, and am just trying to remember not to jump on those I love (which is all humans), that not everyone likes to be nibbled ('just other dogs, just other dogs, just other dogs...'), and to come back EVERY time my human calls me, not just when I feel like it.

It's hard. I sometimes forget to check Moodle for reminders about when things need to be done by, and sometimes I can't even remember my login, but I know my human can always help me, or phone Michael to get me a new password.

Anyway, I've got just over a week until we drive up to the country for my 5 day training, so I'm hoping to do better before then.

Gee I miss you all, and my zooms up the corridors. (My zooms are better than how you lot used to zoom - I'm glad *that's* over.)

I'm looking forward to being the bestest boy I can be. My trainer will teach us all about the rules, and my human will actually read them. (Literacy is not my strong suit...) So I hope to see you all again soon!

Send your questions to Dear Dexter at shelley.scown@education.vic.gov.au



Woof!
DEXTER THE MOON-DOG

Bringing Mindfulness to the Classroom

Bailee FORBES



The importance of feeling connected and valued underscores the ideology of NCAT, and during remote learning it was important to continue to let our students know they were part of an inclusive community.

A recent focus at NCAT staff meetings has been around understanding wellness and wellbeing, led by our own Student Support Officer, Leanne Peros.

Interest has sparked around how to introduce this, as an applied approach, to our classrooms. There has been no greater need for skills in mindfulness than during our time remote learning.



Odin ENGBERG

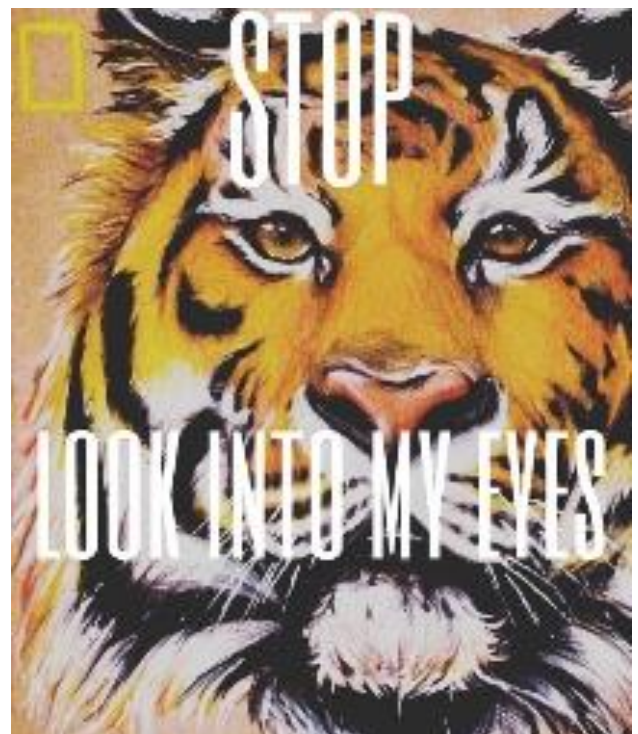
The Year 11 Visual Arts Immersion group started their Creative Enterprise remote learning experience with an online yoga and mindfulness class, guided by yoga teacher Baxter.

Angus ARMSTRONG



After experiencing a moment of inner reflection, students explored how to create artwork that actively asks the viewer to stop and observe the world. Through this directive, students created artwork that applied mindfulness.

Danielle Joughin
ART IMMERSION TEACHER



Nick (Red) MALAPAYAP

Ethan's Parody

to 'We Are The World'

There comes a time
When we heed a certain call
When the world must stay away
There are people dying
Oh, and it's time to lend a mask to life
The greatest gift of all

We can't go on
Pretending day-by-day
That someone, somewhere soon make a change
We're all a part of a great big family
And the truth, you know, isolation is all we need

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, by staying inside
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you away from me

Oh, send them your heart
So they know that someone cares
And their lives will be stronger and free
As God has shown us by sending plagues to china
And so we all must lend a helping hand

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start quarantining
Oh, there's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

When you're down and out, there seems no hope at all
But if you just believe there's no way we can fall
Well, well, well, well let us realize
Oh, that a change can only come
When we stand together as one, yeah, yeah, yeah

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day, so let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

We are the world (are the world)
We are the children (are the children)
We are the ones who'll make a brighter day, so let's start giving (so let's start giving)

There is a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me

Oh, let me hear you!

We are the world (we are the world)
We are the children (said we are the children)
We are the ones who'll make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (isolation)

There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me, come on now, let me hear you

We are the world (we are the world)
We are the children (we are the children)
We are the ones who'll make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (isolation)

There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me, yeah

We are the world (we are the world)
We are the children (we are the children)
We are the ones who'll make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (isolation)

There's a choice we're making
And we're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me
We are the world (are the world)
We are the children (are the children)

We are the ones who'll make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (isolation)
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me

We are the world, we are the world (are the world)
We are the children, yes sir (are the children)
We are the ones that make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (isolation)

There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just stay away from me, ooh-hoo!

We are the world (are the world)
We are the children (are the children)
We are the ones that make a brighter day so let's start quarantining (all right, can you hear what I'm saying?)

*There's a choice we're making,
we're saving our own lives*

Ethan Chiodo-Hall - GENERAL VCAL