



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Friday 17th December  
Last Day Term 4
- ◆ Thursday 27th January 2022  
General Office Opens 8:15am
- ◆ Tuesday 1st February 2022  
1st Day Term 1 - 2022  
All Students Return
- ◆ Thursday 3rd February  
Swimming Carnival
- ◆ Monday 7th February to  
Friday 11th February  
Year 7 Camp
- ◆ Thursday 17th February  
Year 7 BBQ 5:30pm
- ◆ Friday 18th February  
Whole School Photos
- ◆ Monday 2nd February to  
Friday 25th February  
Year 9 Canberra Camp

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## Principal's Update

### We Made It!

What an exceptional year it has been. Throughout it all I have been privileged to work with incredibly flexible, resilient and hardworking staff, students and parents, which has gone a long way to reaching the end of the second Covid impacted year, together, in one piece. Thank you to for the support of our students, staff and leadership team throughout the year.



### Extra Curricular activities

It has been fantastic for our students to finally have the opportunity to do some fun and exciting activities this term.

Our year 9 Surf camp took place recently, and although the weather was cold, everyone who attended had a great time.

We also had an excursion to the Melbourne Museum as a belated part of Diversity Week. The year 7 students had a great time.

The end of year Activities Days went down well with the year 7 and 8 cohort – pictures in this newsletter. Thanks to Mr Richardson for organising the two days of special activities

### Year 12 Graduation

Thankfully, we were able to hold our annual Valedictory and Graduation Night this year, at Mooney Valley Racecourse. Although we were unable to have parents attend - they watched from home via the live-streamed platform - I think you will all agree that it was a huge success and the graduating class of 2021 had a magnificent time.

All students dressed for the occasion and looked so mature and sophisticated. I was very proud of them all. The captains all prepared wonderful speeches, which were warm and fitting for their various roles. Thank you to the Senior School and year 12 teachers for all their work this year getting out year 12 students across the line.

Thanks to Camilia Jansz for organising the graduation, which was a huge effort given the amount of time she had to change the event due to Covid rules. Thanks also to the school captains for their role and to the senior school staff and other staff who assisted on night.



# Principal's Update Continued

## 2022 School Captains

After a very intensive selection process, the **2022 College Captains** have been chosen and will soon be presented to the student body on the Teams platforms. There were many excellent candidates and it was a very tough decision selecting the top 5 out of a very talented pool of applicants.

Let me introduce and congratulate our **College Captains for 2022**:

**Academic Captain – Ines Zepcan**

**Civics and Citizenship (SRC) Captain – Dylan Do**

**Arts Captain – Ayla Kotch**

**Sports Captain – Alanna Quirk**

**VCAL Captain – Salsabil Said**

## Staffing

Staffing is almost finalized, as much as we can for this stage of the year. In 2022, we will be welcoming staff across many faculties as well as staff to continue the Tutoring Learning Initiative.

Some of our staff will be leaving us and either to retire, take on other positions in other schools or taking leave for 12 months.

Mr Baggiere will be leaving us to take on a leadership position at Viewbank Secondary College, Ms Nash will be leaving to take up a position at Proston College. Ms Austin will be transferring to Tarniet SC. There are a few staff taking a year of leave, Mr Lacivita, Ms Nardi, Ms Porter, Ms Aitken and myself.

The end of this year will also see the retirement of four very long serving staff of the school: Ms Minahan, Mr Caven, Ms Cudrig, and Ms Sweeney. Their combined years of service to the Gladstone Park Community is a whopping 135 years. Thank you for all the dedication and years of service to Gladstone Park students over the years.

## VCE results

I normally report on the VCE results this time of year however they are not yet released.

I wish Veronica Hoy all the best for a successful and productive year in 2022 in her role as Acting Principal, whilst I take my year of leave. I am happy to be handing the reins over to such a dedicated and professional leader.

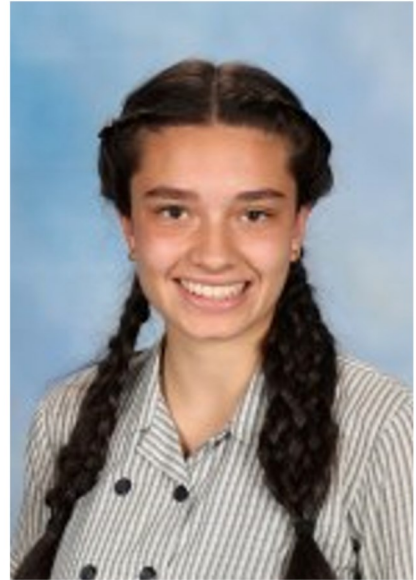
Thank you all for your support over the year, stay safe over the holiday break and I hope you get to enjoy the celebrations with your family and friends.

# Reflections from our 2021 School Captains

We've always been told high school is a marathon, not a sprint; a competition where we need to work towards placing on top; but really, high school has been so much more than that. It's been a place where we've shown up every day for the last six years, the place where we've been able to find ourselves, and help each other grow. A place where our teachers pushed us to be better versions of ourselves, and ultimately the place that helped define us all.

I think we need to give ourselves a pat on the back, because despite every challenge and obstacle we've faced over the last two years in particular, we made it!! In the words of Winston Churchill, "when you're going through hell, keep going", and keep going we did! And I'm incredibly proud of every single one of us for making it here today! So, congratulations class of 2021, we did it!

**Jordan Back, Academic Captain**



As the class of 2021, there is no doubt that we have faced a level of uncertainty and adversity that is unique among graduating cohorts. However, what has been most pleasing has been our ability to still make the most of our last little bit of time together at this school. Weaving in fun between the lockdowns, we've come up with hilarious dress-up ideas at the carnivals and celebration day. We've battled away in Kahoot trivia competitions online and the associated sledging sessions. But I think most of all, we have developed an exceptional understanding of the importance of enjoying each other's company, an understanding forged through the cruelty of months of staring at blank profile pictures and other unenriching social media interactions. When we have been allowed together, I think many of us have cherished the simplicity of being able to spontaneously have conversations and briefly return to a regular high school experience. I know that for I and many others, we will look back on our time in VCE with a satisfaction that it was not entirely defined by Covid restrictions, but instead defined by the memories we made during the time.

**Reuben Silveira, Civics & Citizenship Captain**



# Reflections from our 2021 School Captains

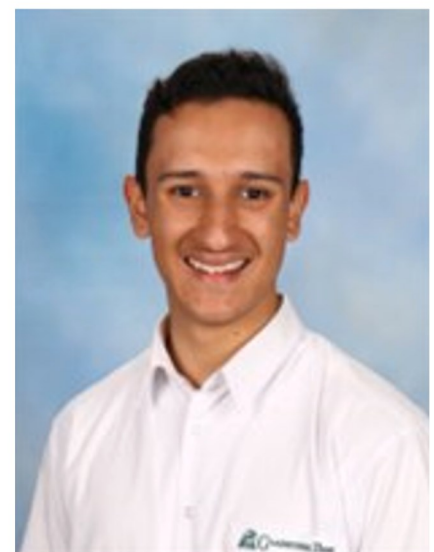
When I found out that I was going to be the sports school captain of 2021, I had many ideas of what I wanted to do to improve the sports department of the school and the students, but COVID messed us up again and unfortunately, we couldn't have a normal year 12. The year was filled with ups and downs, going in and out of lockdowns and never being able to have that sense of stability. There were certainly many difficulties in the past year, and other year 12 students wouldn't be able to understand what we had to go through. We had extra pressure put on us, and we also had to have extra motivation to be able to get through our home learning. I, myself, struggled personally with finding that motivation to learn when we could have just stayed in bed all day. Missing the on-site learning, human contact, interaction, and the structure was a big loss to us. Not being able to make those long-lasting memories with our friends and teachers was really heart breaking but looking back on everything we have achieved this last year and overcoming something that we shouldn't have had to, and not being able to get those typical year 12 memories was such a hard thing to go through but we should all be very proud for being able to get through that. I am honoured to stand here with you guys today and say congratulations to everyone for making it. We should all be proud so cheers to all of us!!

Ruby Smith, Sports Captain



Whilst writing this speech, I was trying to toss-up between going for something formal, like obviously this is a great ceremony, we're all dressed up and looking good; or something more casual, because when I look around and I see everyone here, I see the faces of people that I've laughed with, that I've cried with for nearly 6 years; we've formed really special bonds between everyone. So, with that in mind, when this door of high school closes and we have all these other doors opening for our future, some of us since 2016 have been making plans, knowing what we were going to do, some of us have no idea what we are going to do and most of us are somewhere in between. But what we've learnt in these past two years is that whatever's going to happen in the future is not guaranteed, the only certain thing is that it is uncertain. So, we can take solace in the people that we go along with through the years, the people that we make our memories with. Without trying to sound too cliché, make the most of the people we are with now, because this might be the last time, we are all together and it has definitely been a fun ride with everyone here. With all the ups and downs, I don't think anyone here would change it for a thing. So, class of 2021, here's to us, we've survived it and we are hopefully better off on the other side. Congrats guys!!

Zach Daniells, Arts Captain



# NAIDOC Week Excursion

After more than a few false starts, on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November all of our year 7 students finally got to make the trip to Melbourne Museum to view the first peoples exhibit. The students were very excited to be able to venture out of the school. This was also a great opportunity to build on their learning about first nations cultures and peoples. While there they learned about how the first nations managed their country, farmed the land and manipulated the waterways of Victoria. They also learned about the challenges first nations people have faced, and continue to face as Victoria moves through its treaty process. Thank you to the junior school team for their work in organizing this opportunity for our year 7s.

There was also an opportunity at the museum for the students to engage with their science and humanities studies as they explored the history of Melbourne over time, went on the hunt for some of the world's most extraordinary insects and learned how the world itself was formed. Not to mention the highlight for so many, the dinosaur fossils.

I'd like to congratulate the students for being excellent role models and ambassadors while at the museum and thank them for engaging with a challenging but fulfilling day. They enjoyed the day and did our school community proud.

Mr Taylor



# NAIDOC Week Excursion



## GPSC Students on SBS Radio

On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, some of our students had the opportunity to be on SBS Radio Italian. Natalie Hermiz (year 9), Isabella and Julia Chaperon (year 10), students of the immersion program, showcased their Italian language to introduce themselves and spoke about the advantages of the Immersion Program of Gladstone Park SC. According to them, studying History, Geography and Mathematics in Italian for three years has provided them with a wide vocabulary and a solid knowledge of the language that they are eager to use once they will travel to Italy.

Meanwhile, students of the year 9 SEAL class, Andre Alberto, Nicole De Silva and Tijana Jovic memorised a poem in Italian for the Dante

Alighieri Poetry Competition that unfortunately this year did not take place because of the prolonged lockdown. It was a special occurrence, though, as this year the Italian communities around the world celebrated the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Italian poet's death. Therefore, Ms Curini organised these students' participation in the SBS transmission where they did not only present themselves in Italian but demonstrated their impressive dedication to work and ability to deal with challenges.

Not having had the chance to recite it in front of a jury, Andre Alberto recited for SBS Radio, with no cue cards or prompts, the poem he chose from the list prescribed by Dante Melbourne: an excerpt from Dante Alighieri's *Divina Commedia, Canto 1, Paradiso*. Not an easy task, as it took four weeks for him to learn it by heart. Andre also researched about the meaning of the poem and demonstrated the power of our brain to retain information. In a society completely run by computers like the one foreseen by Isaac Asimov, we like to believe that memory is still very important and that training it will help us to have a better, healthier and longer life.

Cinzia Curini



# Foster Care Information Session



More than 14,000  
kids in care.

More than 14,000  
reasons to care.

## FOSTER CARE - INFORMATION SESSION

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER | NORTH WEST

6:30pm – 7:30pm (via ZOOM)

Now more than ever, foster carers are needed  
for children & young people across Victoria.

## REGISTER NOW!

Online Information Presentations available during COVID-19

North 9301 5200

West 93967400

[Carer.Info@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:Carer.Info@anglicarevic.org.au) | [anglicarevic.org.au](http://anglicarevic.org.au)

BETTER  
TOMORROWS

# Second-hand Textbooks and Uniforms

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL SHOP 

## Buy and Sell

Second-hand **Textbooks**  
Second-hand **Uniforms**



*Knowledge is Power*

Gladstone Park Secondary College

### Simply

- Register on the Sustainable School Shop website  
- [www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)
- An annual subscription to this service has been kindly provided by Gladstone Park Secondary College

### Second-hand textbook & uniform trading systems

- List Wanted & For Sale Ads (Browsers tell each other what they require and what they have to sell).
- The school's book and uniform lists are loaded into the system to make the Ad listing process easy, fast and accurate.
- Assistance is provided to accurately price items.
- Our Ad Matching service shows you
  - Exactly the right items to buy
  - Who has the most items you need
  - The cheapest items
- Buyers contact Sellers, and arrange where and when to transact.
- Excellent email and telephone helplines are provided:  
0438 743 444

### Also Buy & Sell

- Calculators
- Sporting items
- Musical items
- Electronics & DVD's
- Stationery
- And lots more

### Pricing Guide

- Like New 70%
- Excellent 60%
- Very Good 50%
- Good 40%

[www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au](http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au)

ABN 55 114 136 211

### Helpful tips

- Be patient items transact all year round
- Peak trading times: Textbooks: Nov-Mar Uniforms: Change of season; end of year and year start
- Listing Wanted and For Sale Ads gets results
- Our unique Ad Matching Service shows you who to transact with, and will save you lots of time
- Be realistic when pricing items
- Telephoning sellers provides a quicker response as many people do not regularly check their emails
- Pre-arrange who to transact with if your items are still being used and write the availability date in your Ad
- Respect other browsers and remember to Delist your Ads promptly when no longer needed
- Meet somewhere convenient to transact, don't make special trips and just fit it in to your normal activities

## 2021 Important Dates

Friday 17th December	Last Day Term 4
Thursday 27th January	General Office Opens at 8:15am
Monday 31st January 2022	Curriculum Day
Tuesday 1st February	First Day Term 1 - 2022 For All Students
Thursday 3rd February	Swimming Carnival
Monday 7th February to Friday 11th February	Year 7 Camp - ADNAC
Thursday 17th February	Year 7 BBQ 5:30pm Start
Friday 18th February	Whole School Photos
Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February	Year 9 Canberra Camp
Tuesday 22nd February	School Photos Mop Up

## Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

8:15am to 4:15pm

Friday

8:15am to 4:00pm

Last day of each Term the office will close at 2:30pm

**The office is CLOSED during all school holiday periods**

All upcoming dates can also be found on our Website:

[www.gladstoneparksc.vic.edu.au](http://www.gladstoneparksc.vic.edu.au)

### **HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR DETAILS ?**

Please immediately notify the College of any changes to your address or contact details.

## **ATTENTION YEAR 11 & YEAR 12 PARENTS**

Parents are reminded that where a Year 11 or Year 12 student is absent from school due to a family holiday, this will be considered an unapproved absence.

VCE and VCAL have attendance requirements which must be met in order for a student to pass.

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Parents are reminded that the school does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents/guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.

Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers should you require one.