Welcome to Distance Education Centre Victoria for 2012.

In considering what to write in this article, it seems that natural disasters have been featuring in Term 1 since 2009. Disaster whether it be natural or social always challenges us personally. Frequently, it brings out the best in people. Disasters cause us to focus on the most important things as we do not have time, or ‘headspace’ for the many inconsequential things that frequently flood our minds. I do hope that anyone who is experiencing difficulty at this time has support around them.

As a student, if the floods have caused difficulties with your studies, please contact your teacher to discuss solutions.

DECV has changed its school structure this year. We now have a P-10 subschool and an 11 & 12 subschool. Students and parents will probably not notice the change initially. However, over time students should be able to make the transition into DECV, and between year levels, much smoother and more supportive. We have also spent considerable time in designing a new curriculum structure to better meet the needs of students. Over 2012, this will be completed for implementation in 2013.

In 2012 we have introduced video conferencing to the range of our communication tools. Teachers are undertaking some action research into how the equipment might be best used. The video conferencing join Blackboard Collaborate and Skype for real time teaching and learning.

As you can see DECV is still working hard on reflecting on our performance and improving how we do things. I hope all our students make the same commitment to themselves for 2012.

I wish you all the best in your learning in 2012.

Bronwyn Stubbs
Principal
Key DECV people

This page provides a sample of Key DECV people who can assist your studies. Your subject teacher should be your first point of contact. Refer to the information below for contacting the coordinators that are relevant to your studies in P-6, 7-10, VCE, VET and VCAL.

Your teacher

In most cases your Level teacher (Primary, P-6) Subject (students only doing one subject with us in VCE) or Student Support Teacher (multiple subjects) will be the best point of contact for all of your DECV queries. If required they will direct your query to the relevant team within the school.

Please use your teacher’s expertise to talk about your work. This is especially important if you encounter a work issue or are getting behind.

You are welcome to visit the DECV and meet your teacher – but please phone ahead to ensure that your teacher is available on the day of your visit.

Year Level Coordinator’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7/8</th>
<th>John Bartley</th>
<th>8480 0107</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbartley@distance.vic.edu.au">jbartley@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Leisl Morrey</td>
<td>VCAL Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8480 0227</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmorrey@distance.vic.edu.au">lmorrey@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Lidia Manov</td>
<td>8480 0149</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmanov@distance.vic.edu.au">lmanov@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Martin Griffith</td>
<td>8480 0198</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mgriffith@distance.vic.edu.au">mgriffith@distance.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

VCE Exam centre co-ordinator

Kate Gilmartin 8480 0136 kgilmartin@distance.vic.edu.au

An overview of the DECV’s VCE student support structure can be found by clicking here.

Student Wellbeing Team

Student wellbeing is an important aspect of school life and the DECV aims to provide a caring, supportive and inclusive school community for students. Research tells us that students are better prepared for learning when they are physically and emotionally healthy and have the capacity to bounce back from problems or issues.

Students are supported through the DECV student support structures. Students with high needs are referred to the Wellbeing Team for more intensive support using an individual case management approach supported by a number of programs. School-based students are primarily supported by their home school.

The Student Wellbeing team pictured in the right hand column Malcolm McIver (Leading Teacher), Naomi Wong (Caseworker) Jo Miller (Caseworker), Ivan McKinnon (Caseworker), Will Byron (Special Needs Program Coordinator) and Marg Safron (Psychologist).

Wellbeing Leading teacher

Mal McIver 8480 0052 mmciver@distance.vic.edu.au

Caseworker

Jo Miller 8480 0206 jmiller@distance.vic.edu.au

Caseworker

Naomi Wong 8480 0146 nwong@distance.vic.edu.au

Caseworker

Ivan McKinnon 8480 0152 imckinno@distance.vic.edu.au

Psychologist

Marg Safron 8480 0102 msafron@distance.vic.edu.au

Special Needs Program Coordinator

Will Byron 8480 0163 wbyron@distance.vic.edu.au

We thank the Newsletter
Edition 1 Contributors

Maya (Production) Matt (VCE Editor) Linda (P-6 Editor) Lee-Anne, Mary, Mal, Naomi, Karen, Mark, Ken, Lee-Anne, Antoinette, Voula, Katarina, Carol, James, Sia, John B, Julie.
Skoolaborate Virtual World News

In 2011 The Skoolaborate / Art Crimes project encouraged the development of a new means by which to teach as well as to blend learning. This created new challenges as well as opportunities for teachers and students to change their practice to best suit a virtual environment. Art Crimes required students and teachers to meet in-world, share information and resources as well as provide instruction on how to use specific technologies (Photoshop), and collaborate effectively.

In 2012 Mark Kent will spend some time working with Year 10 -12 indigenous students in Bamaga (Far North Queensland) as well as students from the DECV investigating youth culture in relation to Art across Australia. Students will be assessed against outcomes in literacy, the Arts, ICT for visual thinking, ICT for creating and ICT for communicating. A significant curriculum issue will be investigating the diversity of values in a wide variety of social and geographical circumstances. The final phase of the project will showcase Art work from Aboriginal students from across Australia in the Virtual National Gallery. Students will exhibit online in our secure virtual space in Skoolaborate. Real time elements of the project may be ‘live streamed’ to all schools.

This project has been accepted as a ‘curriculum innovation’ finalist at this year’s Victorian Education Excellence Awards in May.

Key DECV people

Librarian’s Corner

Hi and welcome to the DECV Resource Centre. I’m Karen Marston, DECV Librarian.

My role here is to manage and develop information resources; and to assist DECV staff and students with information and resource queries. For those visiting the DECV, the Resource Centre is located on the ground floor, near Enrolments. You are most welcome to drop in and maybe borrow some resources or do some private study. There are computers in the Resource Centre and as DECV students, you can also get access to our student network. It’s best to book a computer in advance, and to ensure your teacher is also available – that way you’ll get the most out of your visit.

An online catalogue is available in the Resource Centre for information on reference books, journals/magazines and software that are available for use in the Resource Centre. Some resources (generally fiction books and some non-fiction reference books) can also be borrowed by DECV students.

The DECV has registered for the 2012 Premiers’ Reading Challenge and we would like to invite and encourage DECV students to take up this Challenge. This is a great opportunity for students to map their reading and perhaps discover new worlds, ideas and adventures along the way. Students in Years 3 to 10 are challenged to read 15 books by 10 September 2012, including 10 or more from the Reading Challenge booklists. Students in Years Prep to 2 are challenged to read 30 books by 10 September 2012, including 20 or more from the Reading Challenge booklists. More information and booklists can be found at - http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

Students wishing to participate in the Reading Challenge can contact me for Registration/Consent forms and Reading Challenge Record sheets.

This year is quite an eventful year for reading as it is also the National Year of Reading (NYoR). Check out the NYoR Website www.love2read.org.au for the latest news and information on this exciting venture. Your local library may also be running related events and activities.

Students and parents wishing to find further information about any of the above are most welcome to contact me at: kmarston@distance.vic.edu.au Karen Marston 8480 0020

DECV news

Resource Centre
## VCE Seminar and Excursion Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>May 14th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Unit 3 Folio presentation</td>
<td>May 21st- 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Politics Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>April 19th</td>
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<td>Australian History Seminar</td>
<td>April 20th</td>
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<td>Biology Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>May 25th</td>
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<td>Business Cert 11 ext Seminar</td>
<td>May 18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry Unit 3 - Sac 2 Seminar</td>
<td>May 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry Unit 3 Revision Seminar</td>
<td>May 25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Solo Unit 1 assessment day and intro to Unit 2, Abbotsford Convent</td>
<td>May 28th-30th</td>
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<td>Dance Solo Units 3 and 4 creation workshop,</td>
<td>June 4th-Jun 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Solo Unit 4 prescribed works and composition seminar, DECV 9:30-4:00</td>
<td>Jun 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Solo Unit 4 prescribed works and composition seminar, DECV 9:30-4:00</td>
<td>June 1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>June 1st</td>
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<td>Geography Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>May 14th</td>
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<td>History Revolutions Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>May 8th</td>
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<td>Legal Studies Unit 3 Seminar</td>
<td>June 28th</td>
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<td>Legal Studies Unit 3 Excursion to NJC and VCAT</td>
<td>August 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Unit 3</td>
<td>May 18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Style and Composition Unit 3, Seminar 2</td>
<td>May 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy Unit 3</td>
<td>April 23rd-Jun 18th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>May 11th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Communication and Design Unit 4, DECV, 11:00-2:30</td>
<td>June 8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Non School-Based Students: Get Your Concession Card Now.

If you are 17 or over, it is illegal to travel on a concession fare unless you are carrying a Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card. Ticket patrols will continue throughout the year, so be prepared by getting a Student Concession Card in four easy steps:

- **Pick up a VPT Student Concession Card Application Form** from one of the train stations below, or download it from the web: [http://www.victrip.com.au](http://www.victrip.com.au)
- **Complete the form and attach two current passport size photographs.** These can be obtained from a chemist, photo processing shop or passport photo booth.
- **Have the form signed and photographs officially stamped by your friendly DECV Enrolments Staff.**
- **Return the form to the station with the appropriate fee and your VPT Student Concession Card will be issued on the spot.**

For further information visit [www.victrip.com.au](http://www.victrip.com.au) or call 131 638

Apply at any of the following metropolitan railway stations:

Apply at any of the following country stations or agencies:
- Ararat, Bacchus Marsh, Bairnsdale, Ballan, Ballarat, Benalla, Bendigo, Bright, Camperdown, Castlemaine, Cobram, Cohuna, Colac, Cowes, Deniliquin, Dimboola, Donald, Drouin, Echuca, Euroa, Foster, Geelong, Gisborne, Hamilton, Horsham, Kerang, Kilmore East, Korumburra, Koo- wee-rup, Kyabram, Kyneton, Lara, Leongatha, Macedon, Maryborough, Melton, Mildura, Moe, Morwell, Myrtleford, North Geelong, Orbost, Ouyen, Portland, Redcliffs, Robinvalle, Rochester, Sale, Sea Lake, Seymour, Shepparton, South Geelong, St Arnaud, Stawell, Sunbury, Swan Hill, Toora, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warracknabeal, Warragul, Warrnambool, Wodonga, Wonthaggi, Woodend, Yarrawonga
Achieving Completion with Excellence - ACE

What’s the best way to achieve your learning goals? Have you ever asked yourself this question?

A team of teachers at the DECV would like to work with you to help you make the most of doing Year 11 and 12 by distance. We’re setting up a club for students who want to learn more about how to reach their goals. The club will be known as ACE - which stands for Achieving Completion with Excellence. We’d like your input about how the club is run and the topics you would like covered. This will be a virtual club but with opportunities to meet face-to-face.

Here’s a quote from a student who participated last year:

“The online study club was very useful for me as I found that I could speak to like-minded students and I could apply the skills and knowledge gained to various assignments not only at VCE but also at University. It was good to be able to go back and reflect whilst consolidating the skills needed to succeed further. The way it was run was truly fantastic; a great group of staff to run it who truly were dedicated to the craft and students’ dreams and aspirations”. (DECV Year 12 student, 2011)

If you are interested in participating please email me at the following address:

fwebster@distance.vic.edu.au
Fiona Webster, Assistant Principal

VCE exam arrangements for DECV home school students should now be in place.

Please contact the Examinations Officer at DECV. If you haven’t returned the examination arrangements form indicating your preferred option for sitting the VCE examinations.

The General Achievement Test (GAT) . . .

What is it and what is it good for?

The GAT is a test of general knowledge and skills in;
- written communication
- mathematics, science and technology, and
- the humanities, the arts and social sciences.

Because it is a general test, the GAT requires no special study. Students can get an idea of the questions by looking at previous GAT papers.

Students are encouraged to familiarise themselves with GAT questions and note that all the information needed to work out the right answer is provided.

Why do Students have to do the GAT?

The GAT is an essential part of the VCE assessment procedures. All students enrolled in one or more VCE Unit 3 and 4 sequences must sit the GAT. Although GAT results do not count directly towards a student’s VCE results, they play an important role in checking that school assessments and examinations are accurate, and in determining Derived Examination Scores. So it is important to sit the GAT and do as well as possible on all parts of it. The GAT is used in these ways because achievement on the GAT is a good predictor of achievement on other assessments. If students have done well on the GAT, then their achievements are likely to be high on their school assessments and examinations.

Clearly, some GAT questions relate more closely to achievement in particular studies. The VCAA takes this into account when it calculates students’ expected achievements in each study for each school. For example, GAT results in mathematics, science and technology play only a minor part in calculating students’ expected achievements in humanities studies.

How is the GAT used?
The VCAA uses your GAT scores as a basis for:
- contributing to statistical moderation of School-assessed Coursework
- reviewing school assessments in School-assessed Tasks
- checking the accuracy of examination marking
- calculating the Derived Examination Scores.

These questions plus more are answered in a PowerPoint that you can find if you click on this link Further information

GAT Question and Answer booklets

How the GAT relates to your coursework and exams www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/vce/exams/gat/relates.html


It is never too early to start preparing for your exams. So what is one thing you can do?

You can go in to the site below and look at past exams for each of your subjects. Better still you can read what the examiners had to say about each question and how students answered. This is a great site as you can not only see what sort of responses examiners are looking. You will also be able to learn from past students mistakes. So have a look and put it in your favorites.

Hint: Go in once a week and see how much of the exam you can answer. You should be able to progressively answer more and more as the weeks go by


Interim Reports were posted Monday 26th March

Your Report was sent to your home address if you only study at the DECV. If you attend another school other than the DECV, your report was sent to this school address. You will also be able to access the report online at www.decvonline.vic.edu.au. If you have not received a report please contact Linda Paddon on 8480 0245 or lpaddon@distance.vic.edu.au

End of Semester Reports will be posted late June. Stay tuned for the exact date.

VCE Exam Arrangements

If DECV is your home school, some of you may have approached a local high school / college / TAFE for permission to sit your VCE Exams there. You would have requested the Principal to sign off on a pink “Sitting VCE at a Local Exam Centre” form and returned it to DECV. After this process, under no circumstances should you be liaising with that high school for further exam arrangements.

Mid year exam timetable

| Tuesday 12 June | 9:00 am – 10:45 am Biology Exam 1 | 11:45 am – 1:30 pm Physics Exam 1 | 2:45 pm – 4:30 pm Accounting Exam 1 |
| Wednesday 13 June | 9:00 am – 10:45 am Psychology Exam 1 | 11:45 am – 1:30 pm Chemistry Exam 1 | 2:45 pm – 4:30 pm Environmental Science Exam 1 |
| Thursday 14 June | 10:00 am – 1:15 pm General Achievement Test (GAT) |
DECV students visited the Melbourne Magistrates’ Court on Friday 23 March.

The day began with a presentation from one of the court clerks. Students were given an outline of the courtroom including: the physical layout, the legal personnel, who sits where, and the formalities of the room such as bowing to the Magistrate once when entering and leaving the court room.

Students were able to observe both civil and criminal cases including: Summary proceedings-those of a less serious nature which are heard by a magistrate. They included traffic offences, minor assaults, property damage and offensive behaviour. Indictable proceedings-those of a more serious nature. These offences included burglary and theft.

Some interesting observations included; police and members of the public giving evidence, bail applications, sentencing of accused persons and defence and prosecution arguments. It was an interesting insight into observing and developing a greater understanding of how our legal system works. A great day for students and teachers.

VCE Music Styles and Composition Seminar

During the first term we hosted two seminars for the VCE subject Music Style and Composition. The first was held on March 1 and was for our Unit 3 students. The focus for the day was participation in practical group activities which saw a thorough investigation of the score of the Mozart set work, training our ears in Ear Gym extension tasks and “Pass the Composition” in which everyone played an instrument of some sort. There was much fun in the learning and students went home satisfied they had made the effort to come; some of them from as far away as Shepparton and Lakes Entrance.

The Unit 1 seminar was held on March 14th and despite it being a cold morning, it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm. They were all welcomed in Twi, one of the languages in Ghana, Africa ("Akwaaba!" – “Welcome!”) and found out what their Ghanaian “day names” were according to what day of the week they were born on.

After the morning tea break students got their chance to see a talented Ghanaian band “Azohu” which features on the films for the Unit 1 course at DECV. Traditional dancing got us all up and moving to feel the beat.

All students then had a chance to play along with the band on the gankokwe (cowbells), sogo (floor drum) and bomba (hand drum). They learnt techniques to change the sounds on the drums and about the syncopated African rhythms which come so naturally to people from this region. The walls of DECV were vibrating with the beat of the drums of Ghana! Traditional dancing got us all up and moving to feel the beat.

The afternoon saw a song being written and performed to help students with their own songwriting projects.

An interesting day was had by all!

Both seminars were streamed live on the internet on the day.

Katarina Vrisk VCE Music Teacher
Careers news

Next time you’re in the online classroom, make sure you visit the careers website.
Along with the careers resources on your CD, the careers website is designed to help you build your individual career plan.
Investigating careers and pathways allows you to explore your options.
Under your list of subjects, you will see the link to Careers. Click on Careers for the latest information including career news and events, updated throughout the year.

Careers Coordinator
Carol Ford
8480 0120
cford@distance.vic.edu.au

As the Careers Coordinator it’s my job to help you source the information that you need in planning your school and post-school program. This includes information about occupations and training pathways, finding courses and their entry requirements, and how to apply for courses or scholarships.

There are also newsletters each term to keep you up-to-date about key events during the year, such as open days, careers expos, course application dates and special programs.

The Careers website (accessible on the DECV Online Environment) includes many resources such as the Careers Calendar and Career News, key websites and career planning guides.

Term 1 holiday events

Animal Keeper for a day: April 4, 11; at the Healesville Sanctuary.
Take part in animal keeper related activities, just as the keepers do in their working day.
Talk to the keepers about their job and the training they did.

Career and course information is also available. Inquiries: (03) 9285 9406
To register go to http://zoo.org.au/learning/holiday/HS-Zoo-Keepers

Experience Environment Day at RMIT: Thurs April 5; City Campus.
If you’re in Year 10, 11 or 12, and like science, these interactive workshops cover environmental engineering, environmental science, geospatial sciences and environmental planning. Numbers are limited, so register at http://www.rmit.edu.au/browse;ID=wahbuuxyomth1

LaTrobe ‘uni student for a day’: Fri April 13, Bundoora Campus; June 15 Albury-Wodonga; Thurs July 5 Bendigo;
If you’re in Year 10, 11 or 12 and want to peek into university life you can be a uni student for a day at LaTrobe. It’s a free event with lunch included. To register go to http://www.latrobe.edu.au/experience

UNIVERSITY TOURS
Some universities give senior school students the chance to visit, tour and find out about courses and entry pathways. One of these tours may be near you.

- Deakin University – ‘Discover Deakin’ tours commence at 11am on Tuesday 30 March at the Melbourne (Burwood), Geelong (Waurn Ponds) and Warrnambool campuses. Register at http://www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/campus-tours/discover.php
- La Trobe University – ‘Talk and Tour’ aimed at school students wanting to find out more about La Trobe. A great chance to check out courses and careers. When: Fri 9 April. 9:30am-12 noon (optional afternoon activities) Register at www.latrobe.edu.au/talkandtour or contact 1300 135 045
- Melbourne University – ‘Access all Areas’ tours for Years 10-12 students and families. Tour the campus and gain an insight into the university. There are also information sessions on specific study areas. When: Fri 9 April, 9am-2pm Register at http://schoolprograms.unimelb.edu.au/SchoolContactLogon.aspx?Application=69 or contact1800 801 662, or 8344 6543
- Monash University ‘At Monash’ seminars are held on various dates from March to May. The seminars run from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. To see the full program and to register go to http://monash.edu/study/options/schools/at-monash.html
Careers news

- **Swinburne - Art and Design**
  Discovery Day on Thurs 8 April at Prahran and Wantirna campuses. For students in Years 10 to 12 with a passion for art and design or film and TV. Cost is $15 per head (including lunch & materials) Register at http://www.future.swinburne.edu.au/events/art-and-design/index.html

- **Veterinary Science**
  Open Day: 10am -3pm, Sun 21 March, University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princes Hwy, Werribee. For more information go to www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday

**Careers Expos**

Expos bring together organisations that can help you to choose a course or career.

Expos are a great opportunity to find out about courses and talk to representatives about a range of careers. Two major careers expos are coming up in Term 2. Put one in your diary now!

**The Age and VCE Careers Expo,**
Fri 23 to Sun 25 April, Caulfield Racecourse www.education.theage.com.au

**The National Careers & Employment Expo,**
Fri 21 to Sat 22 May, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre www.eocexpo.com.au

**Want to study a health science?**
You may need the UMAT test
If you’re considering applying for a degree course in a health science you may need to sit the UMAT test (Undergraduate Medicine & Health Sciences Admission Test)

The UMAT is an aptitude test. It is designed to assess general attributes and abilities considered important to professional practice in health sciences.

In Victoria, Melbourne, Monash, and LaTrobe Universities require a UMAT result for entry to the courses listed below. If you are considering a career in any of these health sciences you must register to sit the UMAT as part of the entry requirements of these courses.

**The University of Melbourne:**
Dental Science, Oral Health
Monash University: Medicine

**Physiotherapy, Pharmacy**
LaTrobe University: Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science

**Note that entry to Medicine,**
Veterinary science, Physiotherapy and Optometry at Melbourne University or Medicine at Deakin University is now postgraduate, applied for after the completion of a degree.

When: UMAT 2010 will be held on Wednesday 28 July 2010

Registration: Registrations open in April 2012 and close early June.

Further information: The website has further details including preparation materials: http://umatweb.acer.edu.au/
Dont Forget!!!
The Philosophy excursion (years 7-10) to the Melbourne Zoo will be held on the on the 25th April 10:30-3pm.

Dear Teacher

My name is Jessi. I live with my Mum, Dad and my two older sisters, Tylah and Georgia. I have a rabbit, two crabs, one fighting fish and four tadpoles.

I love living in Thailand because the people are nice and I have a lot of friends here. I like riding on motor bikes and riding elephants.

I hope you like being my teacher.

From Jessi

Some students enrolled in Primary at DECV are travelling overseas. Jessi is in Year 4 and lives with her family in Thailand. A personal letter like Jessi’s is a great way to communicate with your teacher. Send your personal letters to your teacher and share your experiences with them. They will really enjoy reading them.

Title: Taste of Thailand
Author: Lisa Thompson
Illustrator: Brenda Cantell
Type of book: Picture story book
Illustrations: Black and white pictures on every page
The story is about two kids who travelled to Thailand and help cook for Queen. I enjoyed this book because it is about Thailand and that’s where I live.
I would recommend this book to kids from age 8 up.

(left) Key frames from Sam’s (yr 4) PowerPoint presentation on David Attenborough. Sam is currently travelling around Australia with his parents.

An excerpt from Hayley’s (Yr 4) travel journal

(10) Key frames from Sam’s (yr 4) PowerPoint presentation on David Attenborough. Sam is currently travelling around Australia with his parents.

(10) Key frames from Sam’s (yr 4) PowerPoint presentation on David Attenborough. Sam is currently travelling around Australia with his parents.
Across the Distance Newsletter Issue 1, 2012

BULLETIN BOARD

Premiers’ Reading Challenge 1st Feb to 14 Sep 2012

The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is for all Victorian students in Prep to Year 10. The aim of the Challenge is to promote a love of reading. The Challenge begins at the start of the 2012 school year and officially ends on 10 September 2012. Students who accept the Challenge respond to set reading targets during this period. http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

2012 AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

When: Thursday 2nd August 2012
Where: DECV
Time: 10:00 – 11:15
Duration: 75 minutes
Cost: None - DECV will pay the registration fee

Registration closing date 7th May 2012

The Australian Mathematics Completion has run every year since 1978 and is now a significant international event. It is designed to be a fun event, removed from the pressures of formal assessment.

There are three categories of entry:
• Junior (years 7 and 8)
• Intermediate (years 9 and 10)
• Senior (years 11 and 12)

All students receive a personalised certificate award for their performance and participation, showing their level of achievement. Students may qualify to receive a Certificate of High Distinction, Distinction or Credit.

For more information contact your Mathematics teacher.

Enjoy and have fun!

Help DECV win $350-$1000 of sports gear!

The Premiers Active Families Challenge is on again, and our school has the chance to win up to $1000 of sports gear and sports clinics with high profile sporting personalities. All you have to do is get active and have fun with your family!

Take the challenge and do 30 minutes of physical activity a day for 30 days between 19 March – 30 April. The more students who register from our school, the more chances we have to win. Just by registering you and your family will receive special offers, including:
-15% off at Rebel Sport
-20 free YMCA passes
-One free child pass to National Sport Museum
-One free child pass to Melbourne Aquarium.
-Plus go in the draw to win Rebel Vouchers and iPads!

Anyone can register, so get your friends and family to take the Challenge too.

Get more active more often, spend quality time together and have fun. It’s free, it’s easy, and there are plenty of chances to win!

Register online at www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/challenge or call 1800 463 684, and remember to include our school’s name when you register.

Responsible Gambling Forum

Roslyn Mullins from Consumer Affairs Victoria has written to invite secondary schools to send up to two senior years students to a Youth forum on responsible gambling: A safer bet . . . look after your mates, part of a state-wide student well-being initiative.

This will be held on Tuesday 15 May, 2012, 8:30am – 1pm, at Zinc, Federation Square, Melbourne, during Responsible Gambling Awareness Week 2012.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided. For more information drop a line to Judy Somes, Event Manager at rgwenquiries@justice.vic.gov.au - registrations close on 20 April 2012.
DECV School Camp 2012

Monday - Wednesday
August 20th - 22nd

Where: Urban Camp, Royal Park Melbourne. It is a 5 minute walk from the Melbourne Zoo and a 10-15 minute tram ride into the city.

Cost: Approx. $195 which will include 2 night’s accommodation, travel, meals and activities.

The DECV camp is a great opportunity for students to make new friends and meet teachers in a fun and relaxed social environment.

Activities: Eureka Tower Sky Deck, Galactic Circus, visit to the Melbourne Aquarium, Melbourne Zoo, Queen Victoria Market, MCG Sports Museum Tour & Ice Skating at Icehouse in the Docklands. Entertainment at night will include a combination of movies and in-house activities.

Please register your interest with John Bartley 8480 0107 by May 26th.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

Friday, March 16, the DECV invites and encourages all students and parents to visit the following website http://www.bullyingnoway.com.au/default.shtml

It’s a user-friendly website designed to offer practical advice for dealing with difficult situations (bullying and violence) in a school setting or online environment.

While a range of links are provided, one comes highly recommended. Concerned with net etiquette, students may like to view http://viewpure.com/FXjbLHFWQU

DECV Student Footy Tipping Competition 2012

The DECV Student AFL Footy Tipping Competition is conducted via the internet and is open to all current DECV students. If you are under 18, please make sure you check with your parents to get the okay to join!

COMPETITION DETAILS

Cost: FREE

Who: Any enrolled DECV student. To be eligible for all prizes, winners must be current DECV students and submitting work regularly.

Weekly prize voucher: The weekly winner receives a $10.00 Gift Voucher. This prize is awarded to the tipper with the highest number of correct tips and the lowest margin. If there is more than one winner, the prize will go to the tipper who is highest on the overall ladder.

Winners prize: The overall winner will receive a footy jumper in their favourite team colours.

Cost: None - DECV will pay for the registration fee

HOW TO JOIN

• Go to http://www.footytips.com.au
• Register by clicking on Join Now. You will need to enter your details and create your own personal user name and password to enter your footy tips each week. Agree to the ‘Terms and Conditions’ then join.

Join our competition by entering the following details in
Find a Competition: Competition Name: decvstudents2012
Password: decv12

Don’t forget to enter your tips each week. Please email Julie Lew when you have joined or if you have any questions. jlew@distance.vic.edu.au
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AWARDS
A NATIONAL AWARDS PROGRAM

AWARD CATEGORIES

Peter Szental Award for Sustainability Entrepreneurship
BHP Billiton Business Awards
Biodiversity Award
Virgin Australia Community Award
Green Building Award
Individual Award
Sustainability Leadership Awards
Local Government Awards
Marine & Coastal Management Award
Sustainability Education Award
Environmental School Award
Sustainable Water Management Award
Media Award for Environmental Reporting

NOMINATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 4 MAY
WWW.UNAAVICTORIA.ORG.AU
Want to share your ideas?
What about putting some of those ideas into action...with other students?

- Ideas about how to change things?
- Ideas about creative projects?
- Ideas about learning and education?

If so, then you may wish to get involved in the DECV Student Voice

**DECV Student Voice2012**

DECV Student Voice is an extra-curricular project designed to connect, mentor and empower others to put ideas into practise and even make the extraordinary ordinary.

**STEP 1**
The intention of Student Voice 2012 is to bring students together in both online and face to face forums where you will meet other students, share ideas and explore different possibilities.

**STEP 2**
Having established our local student community, DECV participants will be invited to link with other students in international forums where shared ideas, plans, goals and projects can be explored.

**HOW DOES IT ALL WORK?**
Students will communicate as a group once every two weeks using synchronous tools such as Skype and Adobe Connect and email. These online meetings will culminate in a face to face meeting at the DECV at the start of the second semester. Supervised online class sessions and individual tasks will enable participants to experience the power of a local, then global, learning opportunity.

The students’ efforts and achievements will be tracked, displayed and celebrated in a virtual gallery within the massively multiplayer online (MMO) game *Second Life*.

**WHAT MIGHT IT LOOK LIKE?**
That’s up to you students. One example of what might be possible is an initiative entitled ‘Comics Go Global’, where DECV students worked with students from New York on a weekly basis to develop comics.

TO KNOW MORE ABOUT DECV STUDENT VOICE 2012 PLEASE CONTACT
contact Antoine or Lee-Anne
(84800213) atoniolo@distance.vic.edu.au
Lee-Anne D’Agostino
(84800211) ldagostino@distance.vic.edu.au

We encourage you to mention your interest in the DECV Student Voice 2012 to your Student Support or subject Teacher.

GET YOUR DECV HOODIE NOW! Please contact Lee-Anne (contact details above for more information)
Alexandra did year 12 VCE ART in 2011

This year, acceptance into Victorian College of the Arts to me was like what seemed to be an almost unreachable goal. Therefore, when I attended my interview with all my artwork at the VCA centre, I saw this as a learning experience, rather than my chance to get into the college. I went away with the knowledge that I did my best and did not really think that I had any chance of being accepted into the course, until that little email popped up in my inbox at seven o’clock in the morning. I expected the worst but then read and realised that I was offered a position by the fine art department – I felt so happy and yet at the same time it all seemed so surreal. I had a particularly difficult year with art, and enrolling in Art by distance in the middle of the year didn’t ease the stress either. But with help and insistence – that being accepted by the VCA was possible; by my teacher Mary, I now believe that all the hard work, stress and tears were definitely worth it.

Student work

Caterina’s (Yr 6) diorama
Riley’s (Yr 1) collage
Will’s (Yr 2) potato print
Sam’s (Yr 4) self portrait
Ben’s (Yr 4) self portrait
Jedidiah’s (Yr 1) reef collage
Kyle’s (Yr 5) water colour
Riley’s (Yr 1) collage
Caterina’s (Yr 6) diorama
Will’s (Yr 2) potato print
Sam’s (Yr 4) self portrait
News for Parents

ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN (AIC) CENTRELINK

The Assistance for Isolated Children (AIC) Scheme helps the families of primary, secondary and under 19 years old tertiary students who are unable to attend an appropriate government school on a daily basis, primarily because of geographic isolation. The payment may also be available to some students who are enrolled under the Medical Category at the Distance Education Centre Victoria.

One of the four types of AIC allowances is Distance Education – for families of students who are enrolled in an approved distance education course.

Distance Education Centre Victoria is an approved distance education provider.

HOW YOU CLAIM

Step 1
Obtain a Claim for Assistance for Isolated Children form from any Centrelink office. If you need help completing the form phone Centrelink on 13 2318.

Step 2
Fill in and sign the claim form. The parent/guardian who cares for the student must complete the form. You will find many answers only need a yes or no tick. Depending on your answer you may also be able to skip some sections.

Step 3
Include all relevant documents. If Centrelink does not get all your documents, you might not get paid. There is a checklist at the back of the claim form to check that you have not missed anything.

Step 4
You can lodge your claim form at any Centrelink office. Victorian residents may post it to:

PO Box 1122
Lismore NSW 2480
or fax it to (02) 6626 5979

Education Maintenance Allowance
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is a State Government allowance to help low-income families meet the cost of their child’s education.

See the following site for eligibility:

Cybersmart Kids
Important Tips for Parents and Families

Children need parents and carers to teach them how to make smart choices about who and what they find online. Here are some tips to help you guide your kids experience online:

- **Spend time online** with your kids. Check out good sites together. The Internet can be a fun family activity!
- **Help your kids** use the Internet as an effective research tool - learn about handy homework tips for kids and also good searching ideas.
- **Be aware** of online stranger danger, particularly in chat rooms. Set house rules about what information your children can give out and where they can go online.
- **Put the Internet** computer in a public area of the home, such as the living room, rather than a child’s bedroom.
- **Talk to your kids** about their Internet experiences, the good and the bad. Let them know it’s OK to tell you if they come across something that worries them. (It doesn’t mean that they’re going to get into trouble.)
- **Teach your kids** that there are ways they can deal with disturbing material - they should not respond if someone says something inappropriate, and they should immediately exit any site if they feel uncomfortable or worried by it.
- **Teach children** that information on the Internet is not always reliable.
- **Encourage children** to treat others in the same way they should in real life by giving them an understanding of Netiquette.
- **Know the best** ways of avoiding spam.
- **Consider using filters**, labels and safe zones.

REMEMBER: Children need parents and family members to help them become cybersmart.

FOR MORE HELP AND INFORMATION CHECK OUT - www.cybersmart.gov.au

School Immunisation Facts

Each year the Commonwealth Government funds vaccine programs for adolescents aged 12 to 13 years of age and 15 to 16 years of age.

Parents/carers of these adolescents are able to access free vaccines from either their GP or local council immunisation service.

Vaccine protection against influenza for any child with a high risk medical condition. Families can discuss this with their GP.

Please review the fact sheet [Secondary school immunisation - information for parents for their information](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/factsheets/secondary-school-immunisation.htm)

YMCA Open Doors program

Your child may be eligible for the YMCA open door program or Access program. YMCA Open Doors - providing opportunities for local people doing it tough to become healthier, more active, and better connected.

While hundreds of thousands of Victorian’s access YMCA programs or services on a weekly basis, YMCA Open Doors is concerned about the hundreds of thousands who do not and cannot, due to their social, economic or physical situation. Programs may include health and wellness activities and aquatic education. If you think your child may be interested in taking a 1 on 1 swim lesson with an Aquatic Teacher, all classes are half an hour in duration and teach essentially water safety and survival skills to young children.

Please contact Summer Hall on the telephone number 8084 0187 or email her at shall@distance.vic.edu.au

Click on the link below to read success stories of the open doors program.