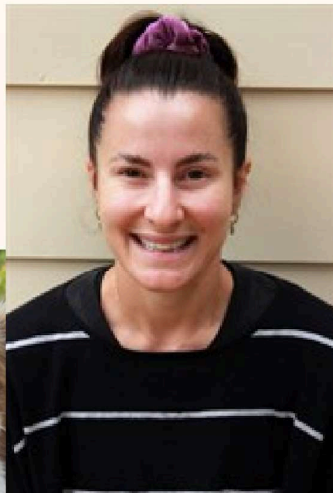
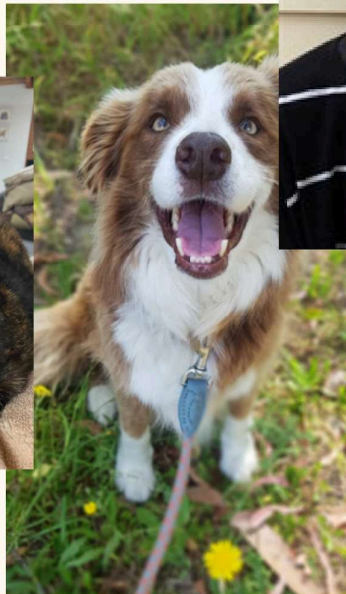


## MEET RHIANNON PARKER

*By Cymone Levell*

This year MDCC are happy to welcome Rhiannon Parker to the college as the year 10 teacher. Rhiannon comes to us with a wealth of knowledge. Prior to joining the team at MDCC Rhiannon worked at various schools such as Mt Lilydale and McKinnon. Rhiannon has a passion for sport and fitness and is a specialist Physical Education and Outdoor Education teacher. In her personal time she is an avid netball player. She currently plays netball at Wandin Football Netball Club. She also has played State League Volleyball previously for Victoria and Monash Uni. Rhiannon has two pets; a Border Collie named Scout and a Tortoiseshell cat named Mia.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 24th April - Curriculum Day
- 26th May - IDAHOBIT Day  
Colour Fun
- 2nd May - Year 10 Aquarium  
Excursion
- 2nd May - MDCC Board  
AGM

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Meet Rhiannon Parker
- Principal's Report
- Alexander McQueen
- Tech Tasters
  - VR Gaming
  - Blender
- Wellbeing Day
  - Consent and Respectful Relationships
  - Slime and Dream Catchers
- Guest Speaker
- Year 10's
- Year 11's
- Year 12's

## TERM DATES

*Term 2 - 24/04/2023 - 23/06/2023*

*Term 3 - 10/07/2023 - 15/09/2023*

*Term 4 - 2/10/2023 - 20/12/2023*



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As the summer days end and the light fades of an evening, so does the end of Term 1. The beginning of Year 2 has been both exciting and busy. As a College, we've had a chance to refine what we have learnt from this time last year and an opportunity to introduce some of the many ideas we have to improve as a College.

We officially introduced two new staff, Sarah, and Rhiannon. Sarah joins us as the Business Manager and brings significant expertise in managing HR and payroll, many of our families have already been in touch with Sarah regarding fees, camps and excursions. With significant government changes to the curriculum, we were excited to introduce our new Year 10 program, along with 11 new students and Rhiannon as the guiding influence. Rhiannon's teaching experience is wide and varied with a passion for physical and outdoor education, already evidenced by the amazing Wilson's Prom camp and frequent trips to the local oval for some exercise.

The development of our students continues with an emphasis of understanding each of them as individuals. This term we introduced diagnostic testing of both their literacy and numeracy skills to inform teacher practice and to develop a more meaningful Individual Education Plan (IEP), it was great to meet with families to discuss the results and to continue involving parents and guardians in the partnership to educate our students.

A desire to build connections within the education sector continued. We are excited to have the opportunity to regularly attend Yarra Ranges Tech School in Lilydale where our students have had a chance to see the world of STEAM in action and really get "hands on". It's been a great chance to understand robotics, programming, sustainability and Virtual Reality, this will continue throughout the year.

We introduced The Resilience Project, which will also continue across the year as an opportunity for students to practice good mental health and gratitude. Our whole school Wellbeing Day was a huge success with a balance of fun and education. Consent, slime making, dream catchers and photography were all on the "to do" list.

As always, we were super busy with events, Wilson's Prom was a highlight where our students demonstrated high levels of resilience and stamina despite the cold and rain (special thanks to our Youth worker Tristan who attended on his birthday).

Students ventured into the city to look over a design/art exhibition by Alexander McQueen and listened to a powerful presentation by Michael Raydan. Michael's "My story" gave a true insight into the world of mental health, adolescence and the effects of drugs and violence in his life.

The Worlds Greatest Shave was an absolute highlight. In the weeks leading up to Tristan announcing his involvement, it was truly special to see our students get involved. A huge shout out to Phoebe, Daniel and Khy who all "shaved for a cure", we're super proud, and it was awesome to share the experience with some family and friends. Collectively they raised over \$2,500.

We look forward to another event-filled term. Happy Easter.

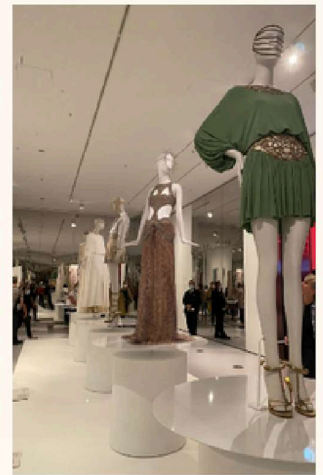
Elise Hopkins  
Principal



# ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

*By Becky*

On Monday the 20th of March MDCC went to the National Gallery Victoria to go see the Alexander McQueen 'Mind, Mythos and Muse' Exhibition. Lee Alexander McQueen was a British fashion designer who died in 2010. He made magnificent pieces that were worn by celebrities like Nicole Kidman, Sarah Jessica Parker and even Lady Gaga. When the MDCC students got to the NGV we listened to a staff member give a powerpoint presentation about who he was and showed us images of the pieces he made. She told us stories about his work as well as videos of models on the runway and what goes on behind the scenes of a fashion show. Once we finished learning about Alexander McQueen's life of design we finally got to go and take a look at it for ourselves. The first part of the exhibit was his collection called Demons and Angels that he was in the process of making but sadly he died before ever finishing it. Some of the designs were on mannequins and others were hanging on some wire because he wanted people to be able to see when a dress was meant to be flowy or stiff. Alexander McQueen made his garments to fit his models so when it came to putting it on a mannequin it took 3 weeks to actually make the mannequins to fit into the garments he made. In his ready-to-wear collection he had his mannequins look like they were dancing because he wanted to show that the garments were made to be danced in. Some students just zoomed through the exhibit to make it back to school on time and others stayed back to get a really good look at his work. At the end of the exhibit everybody went their separate ways back home with a whole new look into the world of fashion and design.



# TECH TASTERS

## VR GAMING

*By Josh*

Yarra Ranges Tech School

On the 16th of March students of MDCC took part in a tech taster, which focused in game design, virtual reality and the basics of Unreal Engine. We were shown how to create new environments in which students added platforms to a game level. The tech taster showed students other employment pathways and a new world of game design with a fun and interesting look into a new and expanding industry.



After students showed off their game levels to each other, students were then allowed to use some VR systems demos and computer games such as Rocket League. Many of the students found this tech taster very enjoyable and I think did a good job of showing students how game design works, whilst also being a fun and enjoyable experience.



# TECH TASTERS

## BLENDER PROGRAM

*By Farris*

On Thursday 16th and Friday 24th of March, students of MDCC of all year levels attended a hands-on learning course at Yarra Ranges Tech School. There we were taught about different forms of technology and how that can be incorporated into various applications, vocations and life skills.

One of these courses was learning how to use the program Blender - an advanced 3D modelling and animation software, which we learned on the Friday.

The task was to assemble and colour a pre-made bumble-bee model, and render that into an image, all by using basic Blender tools.

To help us with this task, we were given ipads that provided step-by-step instructions with images, as well as short-cuts to make the program easier to use.

On top of this, instructors allowed us to follow along their side as they showed us what to do in real-time on projector screens! As a visual and kinesthetic learner, this was great for me!

Within the 2 hour session, every student had completed the task, each with unique results! All of which were displayed with permission, including personalised backstories for fun.

Although the task took longer than expected, it turned out to be a success! Woo-hoo!



# WELLBEING DAY

## CONSENT AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

*By Allira*

On Thursday 30th of March the wellbeing team ran a consent and respectful relationship workshop. In the workshops we did a range of activities, watched a short film and listened to a detective talk about consent and respectful relationships.

Some things we learnt were that 16 is the age of consent, passing on explicit images to other people is a crime, the importance of reading body language and to ask for consent each time you engage in an intimate activity.

We discussed topics such as, what qualities you look for in a partner, what rights and responsibilities you have in a relationship and what rights and responsibilities you have in a sexual relationship



## SLIME AND DREAMCATCHER MAKING

*By Alex C*

The MDCC wellbeing team held an activity based 'Wellbeing Day' on the 30th of March for all students. Some of the activities included making slime and dreamcatchers. Unfortunately due to the weather, the photography and sport activities were cancelled. During the dream catcher making, we followed instructions from a video tutorial to help us create our product. We used a small hoop, wool and ribbon to create the majority of the dreamcatcher and then for decorations we had a variety of beads, ribbons and different kinds of feathers. It was a very successful session, everyone's end result working and all different from each other. During slime making, we had to follow a different recipe compared to the previous group due to it not working. It was quite fun to make despite being extremely messy and staining people's hands with food dye. The best part was getting to choose through a variety of charms to add to our slime and then being able to play with the slime which was quite relaxing. Overall, it was a very enjoyable day!



# GUEST SPEAKER

MICHAEL REYNER

*By Ethan*

On the 17th of March a man with a very difficult and hectic past, named Michael Rayner came to the church at MDCC to educate us about his life and how mental health affected it.

Something very interesting but awful happened to Michael very early on in his life when he was only 9 years old. He started experiencing visions of people he cared for very sincerely dying violently in front of him, which he partially credits to most of his negative experiences he had later on in his life. After he experienced this he didn't speak to anyone about it and let it build up and get worse for him.

Considering this, he was very adamant the whole talk about how if anyone is experiencing anything that is making their life worse make sure you tell someone and get it off your chest.

The next thing that happened to Michael that pushed him further in the wrong direction was he got beaten up by some older kids. He never wanted to be beaten up ever again but once again he did not talk to someone about it and instead he took it into his own hands to start beating up others, so people would be too scared to fight him. This ended with people thinking he was beating up even more people than he was because of rumours.

This fake monster created a real monster. By the time he was 17 he was already a criminal and drug user and only spiralling in a worse and worse direction ending in a jail sentence. He had a turning point in prison many years later at which point realising he missed so many years of his life to being high and involved in crimes. Thankfully this made him decide to become sober and try to make up the relationships in his life he lost. He worked out by himself everyday in prison and kept a journal slowly repairing his mental health. He credits these techniques to his safety and freedom today. To this day 2 of his 3 brothers still do not talk to him purely because of his past decisions and it all started because he didn't try to speak to people about his mental health. Everyone needs to express themselves.

# YEAR 10S

*By Rhiannon Parker*

During term 1, the year 10's participated in a range of activities that exposed them to many new experiences. Some of these activities included participating in the whole school hiking camp at Wilsons Prom, making stress balls out of different fillings to suit their tactile needs, and baking and decorating Easter cookies they could use to give as gifts to family and friends.





# YEAR 11'S

To start off the term on Valentines Day, both year 11 classes made chocolates. It involved melting chocolate into moulds and waiting for it to set. Some students added glitter and colour to their chocolates, which looked amazing. Origami boxes were also made by students from scratch to store the chocolates in.



Later on in the term, the Year 11s went to Yarra Ranges Tech school for two days. On the first day, we learned about heating and cooling box houses. You could use different materials to keep the heat in and for the house to cool down quicker. Students in a group then had a competition on whose house temperatures increased and decreased the quickest in 5 minutes. The temperatures were calculated by the thermal camera and devices. The last session was learning how to code a moving robot to move around cones in a certain course. The students were taught step by step how to code the robot. Some students excelled and after they completed the course, had free range to code more complicated courses and movements. The second day, we created a game to code an ant to complete different levels. Everyone's games were different and had their own character. The last session involved creating your own 3D bee and free time playing VR games.

Term one's Wellbeing Day focused on consent and respectful relationships. Students were split up into comfortable groups and did activities related to the topic. An officer came to talk about the law around consent, which was very helpful and informative. For lunch, students got delicious pizza. In the afternoon students got to do two activities, out of, making dream catchers, making slime, sport and photography.



Some people went on camp to Wilson's Prom and had a great time, despite the weather. We also had Michael visit us and talk about his experience in jail and what his life is like now, after everything he has been through. We also studied 'The Breakfast Club' and looked at stereotypes, biographies and people who make a difference in the world and personal identity and emotional intelligence.

# YEAR 12'S

So the year 12's have completed their last ever first term of a highschool year. With the changes to the program being implemented this year from VCAL to VCE VM this has meant a few changes in how things will work this year and as such we have been navigating this as a class. As part of the curriculum this year the year 12's have been looking at Diet and Nutrition as part of their numeracy and literacy and will be creating a healthy recipe and nutritional panel for this recipe.

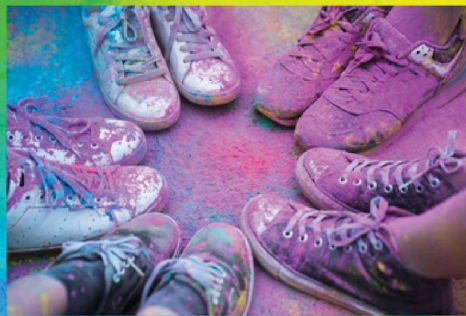
The year 12's have also begun organising the upcoming IDAHOBIT Day celebration, and are in the process of creating a colour run style obstacle course and other activities such as slime the staff and a slime war. There will be items available for purchase and to show your LGBTQI support.

More information regarding this will be forwarded during term 2.

## IDAHOBIT DAY

Friday 26th of May  
colour run style

### Team Obstacle Course



BBQ  
lunch  
provided

bring gold  
coins for extra  
fun like  
sliming the  
teachers

Lots of  
prizes to  
be won on  
the day