

Frequently Asked Questions

How did the City Experience go?

We were extremely pleased with how this part of our new program went last term. John Gardiner did a fantastic job in bringing together a challenging and enjoyable program. The days were filled with interesting activities and visits to places of unique significance to the city of Melbourne. A highlight for many of the students was their rotation to the Magistrates' Court. For many of our students this was the first time that they had seen the justice system 'at work' and it made a significant impact. The Thursday afternoon recreational activities were also a highlight.

The work booklet and investigation task (researched in the city and then completed back at school) gave the students many opportunities to reflect on their learning and experiences and to think critically about those aspects of the city that reflect the character of God and those aspects that don't. It has been a privilege to read the comments, responses and prayers of our students in their booklets and in their investigation reports.

We were extremely impressed with the maturity and good sense of our students in the city. They navigated their way safely around the city, met promptly at designated meeting points, completed often challenging and thought-provoking activities and survived the week, all with good humour!

We were very proud of their conduct throughout the week and received many pleasing comments from members of the public.

What's Coming Up:

- Health Week 10th–14th August
- Year 9 Centre Opening 15th August
- Yr 9 Parent Morning Tea at 'The Pines' 20th August
- Geography Field Trip 26th August
- Community Service 14th–16 September

Newsletter Online

Did you know that you can also access this Year 9 newsletter online? View the Networks Newsletter page at www.donvale.vic.edu.au.

Yr 9 Centre

What is a happening with the Year 9 Centre?

As you would all know, we have had another slight delay in being able to fully occupy and enjoy our new facility. However, we are hoping that we will be back in the Year 9 Centre within a couple of weeks. In the meantime, **the official opening will still take place this coming Saturday, the 15th August.** Many of the Year 9's will be assisting us on this day so we hope to see you all there!

Year 9 Parent Morning Tea

Year 9 Parent Morning Tea at Gloria Jeans at The Pines Shopping Centre. Thursday 20th August from 9am.

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Student Input

“ ‘The community breakfast was a great opportunity to come back after the holidays to catch up with our friends and share our excitement of the Year 9 Centre. After breakfast we made our way down to the building to enter for the first time. We ran through a footy banner that students had made the week before. We also wrote a prayer which we pinned on the noticeboard when we entered the building. It was great to mark the significance of us being the first students into the centre with all these activities.’ *Michelah Smit*

‘The year 9 building is fantastic and already we have seen a glimpse of how good the year 9 centre will be and all the great activities we will be able to do in it.’ *Jesse Murray*

‘It has great to have the experience of being in a new building made for us. It is like a better G block with funky windows and an elevator.’ *Anonymous*

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Curriculum Update

Term 3 is a packed term in the Year 9 program. Our Coexplore theme is “Experiences in Renewal” and the students are engaging in a range of activities and research tasks investigating what contributes to the well-being of society. Students are using high-level thinking skills to develop a measurement tool to gauge the ‘Shalom’ of society. Ask your Year 9 Student how their rubric is going!

The study of ‘A Bridge to Wiseman’s Cove’ by James Moloney continues and students are producing visual displays of characters themes and plot before they go on to write their text response essay later in the term. This is the third text response essay written this year and it is hoped that the students are gaining familiarity and confidence with this style of writing.

Next week, the whole Year Level will take part in Health Week. The focus is on physical and emotional health. Students participate in several different sessions, including Sun-Smart Behaviour, Stress Management, Body Image, Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Healthy Eating. We have a range of speakers and presentations during this week to encourage informed lifestyle choices that include renewal of attitude, self-awareness and physical well-being.

You will have received a notice regarding the Geography Field Trip. This field trip is unique to DDC and gives students a chance to practise their Geography skills while investigating examples of Urban Renewal. Students will consolidate their notes taken on the day in a Field Trip report.

We are looking forward to the Integrated Experience this term, which is Community Service. It is a time where students learn the value of volunteering and how they ‘get’ so much from ‘giving’. In the past we have experienced students who incorporate volunteering as an integral part of their expression of their Christian faith, which is wonderful, not only for them, but also for the well-being of society.

Kathryn Delaney

What’s happening in ...

Community Life

This term we have been examining the biblical story as a cohesive narrative consisting of six acts. Students are challenged with the proposition that we are living in the fifth act: we have the script of the first four, a sneak preview of the last and the curtain is already up! Being “in Christ”, the fruit of the Spirit and the “Law of Love” are explored and inspirational people researched.

In their “Community Organisational Groups” students are continuing to do practical things to promote community within the year level and beyond. One group is continuing to do a great job organising and running our year level assemblies, another is providing the worship music for these events. This term’s ‘e-mag’ is taking shape, students have been treated with student-baked vanilla slices, while another has been creating displays to support the curriculum in the new building and assisting the Primary School with their classroom displays. Another has launched our ‘Operation Christmas Child’ appeal. We are challenging all year 9 students to bring a shoebox of goodies to give.

Doug Allison

Moving into the Year 9 Centre

