From the Principal

Dear staff, parents, students and friends of MAC,

Thank you very much for your wonderful support throughout 2016. As I mentioned at our recent Awards Night, it has been a year of significant change with: the introduction of vertical curriculum; additional pathways with VCAL and VET; new student wellbeing structures, including a new house system; additional resources; new staff; enhanced student leadership opportunities for authentic student voice; and much more.

To our students I also say thank you to those who have stepped up and started to take control of their learning. I constantly remind all students to be their best, as not everyone can be the best in the class. I look for more students stepping up in 2017.

One parent recently stated, “It is amazing what has happened this year at MAC, through your efforts, hard work and dedication to all the students”.

Thank you to all families who attended our recent annual Awards Night on what was a very warm night. It was great to see you there supporting our students. At MAC, we believe that success can take many forms. In case you missed it, this year we decided to have three Dux of the school. The three Dux for 2016 were Daniel Aristotle, Fredy Lopez and Lensa Rashid. Daniel, our VCE Dux, hopes to study Science at Monash University. Fredy, our VCAL Dux, aims to complete a pre-apprenticeship in plumbing. Lensa received the award for achieving significant academic growth throughout the year. Congratulations to these students for achieving their personal best.

The latest copy of the Moonee Valley Leader celebrates the achievements of VCE students. When I was contacted and asked to contribute the ATAR of our Dux, I responded by stating that we do not measure a student’s success based solely on their ATAR. I went on to say that this year we have decided to have three categories for Dux. The phone then went silent. So understandable I was most annoyed to read the latest edition of the Leader saying that Mount Alexander College failed to supply information. I will attach my letter to the Leader newspaper at the end of this report. (Read more about this on Page 6)

In 2017, school will commence on Wednesday 1 February for all Year 7, 11 and 12 students. All other students will return for classes on Thursday 2 February. All students are required to be in full school uniform and ready to classes.

(Continued on Page 2)
From the Principal Continued

Please note we have some uniform changes in 2017. A new school jacket will be available for purchase from the General Office. Delivery is expected just prior to school returning. Current students may use the spray jacket; however, all new students will be required to purchase the new jacket. Tracksuit pants and a new lightweight polo sport shirt will be available from Lowes are uniform supplier.

Next year, 2017, will be another big year, a year of consolidation, while still moving forward. I look forward to working with you all again next year. Have a safe and wonderful Christmas with family and friends.

Wayne Haworth, Principal

Uniform Changes

Please take the time over the summer break to check and update the school uniform.

In 2017 we have a new jacket, tracksuit pants and sports shirt.

You can purchase the tracksuit pants and sports shirt from Lowes in Highpoint. The new jacket will be available to purchase ONLY from the school office once school has resumed.

A reminder to all about the acceptable footwear for all students. Students must wear black leather lace up, buckle or velcro strapped shoes only.

Footwear for students at Mount Alexander College

Acceptable

Unacceptable

MAC Alumni Club

Past students are invited to join the MAC Alumni Club by contacting the school via email, or through the MAC Alumni Club Facebook page.

The MAC Alumni Club will begin in early 2017 and will welcome all past students of Mount Alexander College. The club will provide all alumni with networking opportunities with each other, the chance to share stories with each other from their time at MAC and allow alumni to speak to current students about life past school. There will be events throughout the year that will be announced through the MAC Alumni Club Facebook Page.

Alumni are encouraged to join the MAC Alumni Club Facebook Page to keep up to date with events. (https://www.facebook.com/MACAlumniClub/)
Monash Future Finders Excursion

Monash University invited students from MAC to attend their ‘Future Finders’ event. This event provided our students the opportunity to get a first-hand experience of what engineers do on a daily basis. The event showcased eight different streams of engineering.

Each area was given a problem by the public and the Monash University students had to resolve the given problem. The presented solutions involved a long board that had a one wheel engine attached to it, enabling it to drive up to 40 km/h. A sandpit acted as a landscaping model, in which an electronic projector demonstrated how a fire would travel.

Such a tool would enable fire crews to predict how a bush fire would move. As a result, our students were provided with in-depth information about how engineering works in the real world. This certainly created a deep interest among the students of exploring the engineering pathway after completing their time at MAC.

Jens Boernemeyer

2017 Student Leadership

The 2017 Student Leadership Team participated in two workshops in preparation for 2017. The first was with the Centre for Multicultural Youth who will be supporting the team with the Entry Buddy Program. The second workshop was facilitated by STRIDE and looked at leadership roles and responsibilities.

Lynn Bentley

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Advance Camp

Advance gave students the opportunity to experience new tasks, such as learning first aid and being actively involved in The Duke of Edinburgh Award and much more. Students had to get out of their comfort zone and do things that they have never done before.

They have improved their leadership skills, social and interpersonal skills, their ability to work as a member of a team and the ability to be an independent learner.

“The camp was a chance to broaden our horizons, take on new challenges and celebrate our achievements.”

Advance Camp Awards:

Patrick – Costco Buy in Bulk and Save Toilet Paper Award
Judson and Jack Solley – Stir fry MasterChef Award
John and Jordan – Escape the Paparazzi Award
Maddie and Rory – Stick in the Mud Award
Josh H – Lonely Hearts Club Award (constantly on the phone)
Sweeney – Jacques Cousteau Mime Award (lost voice)
Samaridhi – Better Late than Never Award (stuck in traffic for 2 hr)
Jale – 11th Hour Award (last minute addition but made the most of it)
Hameeda – Carry-On Luggage Award (carrying Abdul)
Jack Walter – Barefoot bandit Award (danger)
Tom – Aquaman Award (more time in water than in the canoe)
Deng – Kinky Boots Award (big boots)
Selomon – Slowpoke Award
Jay – Slow Cooker Award (epic stew)
Shane – Michael Jackson Award (biggest change in colour)
Josh Evans – Mee Goreng Award
Roland – Who Ya Gonna Call: Ghostbusters! Award (ghost story)
Finn – Youngest Father of the Year Award (dad jokes)
Tara – DJ Press Play Award
Likha – Cathy Freeman Award for the Opening Ceremony (first to light the fire)
Sapana – Happy Camper Award (optimistic)
Andrew – Simply the Best Award (good at everything! photographer, etc)
Muhsen – David Beckham Fashionista Award (best dressed camper at all times)
Abdul – First Aid Award (ironic)
Macadie – Maybe She’s Born With It Award (proactive)
Matthew – “I am Italian, I don’t burn” Award (yes he does)
Pejic/Khan – Mr Maggoo Award (car)
Buckingham – The Two Up Award (future walking plans)

“As part of the Advance program our group has become a close knit community. We learned a lot about ourselves from the way we interacted with each other.”

Adriana Pejic
The Council of Adult Education and The Huddle are offering a short course to re-engage young people aged 17-24 in education pathways.

The course will take place at The Huddle and the CAE in the city late in January, enabling young people to enrol in courses starting in February.

**Reconnect**

A two-week program of digital skills, learning about jobs of the future, visiting workplaces and looking at education options for 2017

**Date:** 17th to 27th January 2017 (8 days total)
**Time:** 10:00am to 2.30pm
**Where:** The Huddle (North Melbourne) and CAE (City)

Learn more about the program and register on:
- Friday 16th December at 3pm at The Huddle
- Thursday 5th January at 11am at the CAE
- Thursday 12th January at 11am at The Huddle

The Centre For Adult Education (CAE) and The Huddle (North Melbourne Football Club) are offering this short course to people aged 17 to 24 years old who have been out of school for 14 weeks or have not worked full-time in the past 12 months

- Get advice and explore options before school, TAFE and Uni start
- Learn digital skills to help you print in 3D, tell stories, build apps and choose education and career pathways
- Visit places for learning and creating
- Reconnect into education

For more information contact Meg on 0466 470 129 or email reconnect@boxhill.edu.au

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**Presented by:**

[Logos for The Huddle, CAE, and BOX HILL INSTITUTE]

email: mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au    phone: 9376 1622
This letter was sent in response to the recent front page article in the Moonee Valley Leader celebrating the achievements of VCE students.

Success comes in many forms- Why do we value the ATAR as the major form of success?

At MAC, we recognise that success comes in many forms. We are an inclusive, culturally diverse school that values the individual differences of students. We celebrate academic excellence as well as academic growth. This year we decided to have three categories for the school Dux: VCE, VCAL and a separate award for the largest growth in academic achievement. In 2016, our VCE Dux was Daniel Aristotle. Daniel aims to study Science at Monash University. Our VCAL Dux aims to study a pre apprenticeship in Plumbing. Lensa Rashid was the recipient of the Dux for Academic growth. She has been offered a scholarship to study Nursing at Victoria University.

We believe that ATAR’s should not define a student or limit their future opportunities. There are many pathways to a successful career. A high ATAR does not guarantee future success. The sole focus on the ATAR can create higher levels of anxiety, stress and depression in young people. As caring educators, and responsible adults we need to support the development of our future generation. Under the current system, the number of students who drop out in their first year of tertiary studies is very high. It seems that VCE system and the work undertaken by students while in secondary school, generally does not prepare students well for university or Tafe. Research suggests that critical thinking, creativity, independent learning and entrepreneurial skills are needed to be successful in the 21st Century. At MAC, we promote these skills and the qualities of determination, persistence and hard work. Students are encouraged to be their best and to follow their dreams. The current system with the emphasis on the ATAR is deeply flawed. Schools should be places where students continue to develop their love of learning rather than memorising facts and formulas for exams. More and more universities are offering alternative entry programs, as they are acutely aware of the limitations of using the ATAR to select students for their course. MAC has recently partnered with Swinburne University providing direct access to university courses without an ATAR. The time has come to start to open our minds and question the true value of the ATAR.

Wayne Haworth, 
Principal Mount Alexander College

MAC has seen big changes in Careers in 2016. New faces with Jens and John coming on board, and a new approach to how Careers is implemented. Additional programs will be introduced in 2017 to assist students and their families make more informed subject choices, develop student’s understanding of Australian workplace culture, and assist senior students to be better informed about their options once they finish their schooling at MAC. Thank you to the MAC Community for making us welcome and we look forward to continuing working closely with everyone in 2017. A happy and healthy festive season to all our families.

John Horley, Careers Development Coordinator & Jens Boernemeyer

Stay Connected with MAC

email: mount.alexander.712@edumail.vic.gov.au
phone: 9376 1622
Robel heads off to USA

We are very excited for Robel Gebreweld, 2016 School Captain, who will be heading off to Colorado University in USA for three weeks.

The Huddle nominated her as the most appropriate, and deserving recipient of this after they were approached by the US Consulate General.

The Education USA Academy at the University of Colorado Boulder is designed for 15-17 year old students who have intermediate to advanced levels of English language proficiency.

The program focuses on:
• English language instruction
• Academic culture and the US higher education system
• The university admissions process (applications, essays, required tests, scholarship opportunities, and interviews)
• US current events, issues, culture, intercultural communication.

The program includes instruction, materials, and activities that promote students’ professional development. The program also provides opportunities for students to interact with native speakers of English, including peer groups on campus.

Holiday Programs

The Huddle
Contact The Huddle directly for any more information (http://www.nmfc.com.au/huddle)

Holiday drop in sports
i.e. basketball, futsal, netball etc
Monday – Friday 2:00pm – 4:00pm every week from 9th Jan – 3rd of Feb**
**Tuesdays are girls only sessions

Tennis
A ‘hot shots’ opportunity to go to the Australian Open
Friday 20th of January 8:00am-3:00pm
Registration compulsory – bridget.barker@nmfc.com.au and 0422 360 113

Surfing
A day trip to Anglesea on the Great Ocean Road
Wednesday 11th January 8:00am – 5:00pm
Registration compulsory – bridget.barker@nmfc.com.au and 0422 360 113

100 Story Holidays
Comic and storytelling workshops for young writers 7-18 years
16-25 JANUARY 2017
100 Story Building, Footscray
Book now 100storybuilding.org.au
Drama Academy

Self-development through drama!
Boost your child’s creativity, confidence and communication skills.
Enrolling now for students aged 5 to 17.

www.helenogrady.com.au

Contact the Principal
Joanna Melo Howard
0459 160 263
or 1300 OGRADY

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