Advance College of Education

ADVANCE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

CHRONICLE

ISSUE 10

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Well that's wrap! 2026 officially done and dusted – it has been a fantastic year and a real privilege to work with the Advance staff in providing the ongoing support and educational opportunities for all our young people.

A couple of weeks ago I had the honour of attending the Peninsula Applied Learning Awards, hosted by FMPLLEN at the Mornington Racecourse. We are able to nominate 3 students against the following categories of Student Excellence, Student Achievement and Industry Achievement. All the nominated students are so deserving of these awards based on their efforts both in school and out of school, and a real credit for showing resilience and determination in applying themselves to their studies.

Our winners from left to right are:
Lily Harris – Student Achievement
Ruby Bromage – Industry Recognition
Sophie Fairweather – Student Excellence



The College enrolments for a long time existed on word of mouth and I am confident that this is changing as we work to towards becoming the school of choice in the peninsula area. Next year will see the College grow in numbers to 75 students! The most the College has ever had and see us offering two classes of VPC, two of VCE VM 1 / 2 and one VCE VM 3 /4. This continues to show the need of schools like Advance in providing specialist support to students for whom mainstream education wasn't the right fit, and if you ever have the opportunity to attend any of our wonderful events throughout the year we really value parent engagement and feedback and would love to see you here.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the following staff who are moving on in 2027 for their fantastic contribution to supporting Advance College. Assistant Principal Kris Helisma, VPC teacher Ms Jenna Keogh and PA Ms Jackie Meadows, and wish them all the best for their future.

All our families, young people and wider community please have a wonderful and safe Christmas holidays and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year for those students returning and welcoming the new intake for 2027!

James Doble
Principal

INTERNAL VET COURSES AT ADVANCE COLLEGE

Completing VET at Advance allows students to learn in a familiar school environment, with support from staff who know them and their learning needs.

Our Advance Certificate II in Hospitality course equips students with essential knowledge and skills blending key hospitality industry training with essential employability skills.

A standout feature of this course is the hands-on practical learning opportunities across cooking sessions and weekly barista coffee service. This year our students have developed their barista skills using commercial espresso machines and equipment. Students offer weekly barista coffee service during Each VET session and have the opportunity to run the student Mugshotz Café on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Hands on cooking sessions see students harness their creativity and team work to make a range of delicious items including, home-made burgers, cookies, slices, cakes, sausage rolls, pizzas, sandwiches and wraps.

This year, our students have shown outstanding dedication to their studies, with excellent attendance, effort, and engagement. This course is an ideal pathway for students seeking employment in the Hospitality industry.

We look forward to celebrating the achievements of the 2026 Hospitality students, and are excited to welcome new students into the VET Certificate II in Hospitality course next year, for another exciting year of learning, growth and fun.

We are also excited to add Certificate II in Sport Coaching to our internal VET offerings for 2027. This hands-on course is ideal for students who enjoy sport, teamwork and helping others develop their skills. Students will have the opportunity to build practical coaching skills, develop communication and leadership abilities, and gain an understanding of how to support others in a sporting environment.









$30 BOSS MARKET STALL

Over the past term and a half, the VM 1&2 class has been participating in the $30 Boss program. This program provides students with the opportunity to showcase their creativity, work collaboratively, and develop their financial literacy and numeracy skills.

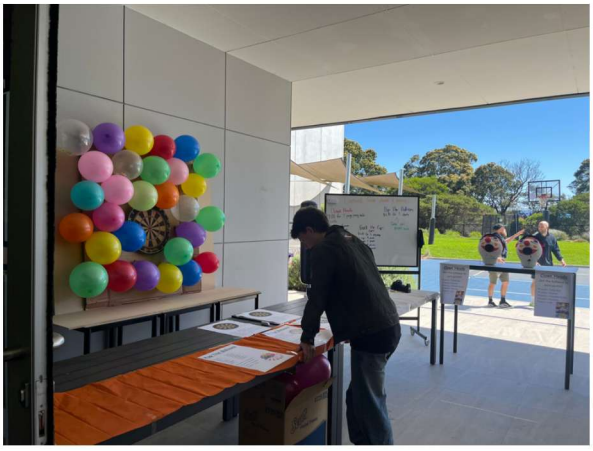
Students took great pride in their work, with many going above and beyond to hand-make their products and decorations, design marketing posters, and promote their stalls to other classes in the lead-up to the event.

There was a fantastic variety of stalls on offer, including carnival games, posters, fruit and chocolate skewers, handmade soaps, keychains, bracelets, fidget toys and a raffle. The market was a huge success, with every student making a profit! More importantly, students gained valuable hands-on experience in developing enterprise skills, bringing a business idea to life and exploring the potential to turn their ideas into a successful business."

This is also from a student if you could add that in, that would be amazing:
"The $30 Boss program was an amazing experience. I learned how to start a business and track sales. This process involved brainstorming an idea and finding all the products to sell. It was fantastic because it was fun, and I even made money in the process!
– Tyson McCabe"









PSYCHOLOGY AND COPING WITH TRANSITIONS

This time of year brings many transitions. For students, the transition away from the predictable structure of the school day can be a relief, a struggle, and for many- a bit of both!

Everyone differs regarding what is most helpful in coping with transitions, and figuring it out can take time and exploration. Planning for transitions can support mental health, well-being, protect energy, capacity and promote skill development in self-care. Below are a few tips that may help generate ideas and conversations to start planning for transitions.

Finding a balance between supporting rest and maintaining some structure to each day. Opportunities for rest that are balanced with keeping consistent with basic routines such as snack times, mealtimes, and wake-up times, may help in coping with the transition away from the external structure of school. The demands present in the day to day environment at school are broad, accumulative and are not always perceived as demands by others. The holidays bring an opportunity where there is time to support rest that does not need to be conditional or earnt in any way.

Collaborate around a daily screen-time schedule. Collaborating together around predictable screen time routines can be an effective way to balance the enjoyment and benefits screens can offer with other activities that also engage their interest. Striking this balance can be difficult for many families. If you need support, GameAware is an organisation that offers resources to support parents and free 30 minute Q&A zoom sessions about gaming and screen time. https://www.gameaware.com.au/services/

Map out the unknown. The transition into holidays can create a sense of unpredictability and unknown. Creating some predictability by visually mapping events and activities on a calendar or whiteboard, can reduce anxiety about the unknown. Mapping out the return to school toward the end of the holidays may also help reduce anxiety about returning.
Being a presence without demand. Opportunities to be present without the demand of conversation or interaction can support connection as it creates a low-pressure environment and respects the variety of ways in which each of us engage with the world.

Transitions can be tricky, but planning for them can support capacity to cope with them. If you or someone you care for requires support during the end of year break please contact:
Lifeline phone: 13 11 14, 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Beyond Blue phone: 1300 224 636
Headspace Rosebud 5925 9464 9am-5pm Mon-Thurs
Headspace Hastings 1800 367 968 10am-6pm Tues-Weds, 9am-5pm Thurs-Fri
eHeadspace phone: 1800 650 890, 9 am to 1 am Australian Eastern Standard Time
Kids Helpline phone: 1800 551 800, 24 hours a day 7 days a week
Yarning SafeNStrong (YSNS) phone 1800 959 563

If you are experiencing a crisis and require urgent mental health support please contact:
Peninsula Health Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services 1300 792 977 (24/7).

Zoe, School Psychologist

2026 AWARDS NIGHT

It was fantastic to see so many of our families last night at our annual awards night, and an amazing opportunity to celebrate the successes of our students in completing either their VPC or VCEVM courses.

It is always with a sense of pride that the staff here at Advance recognise the efforts of our young people in persevering with their studies, overcoming the barriers to their learning and becoming resilient, motivated individuals. Congratulations to all award nominees and recipients!



Be kind, work hard.





SCAMS ARE BECOMING HARDER TO SPOT, ESPECIALLY WITH AI BEING POPULAR

AI (Artificial Intelligence) has made it easier for scammers to produce polished content quickly. Instead of the poorly written phishing emails many of us have learned to recognise, AI can help scammers create professional looking messages with convincing grammar, branding and personalised information.

Scammers can create fake video and audio that appear to show celebrities, politicians or even family members promoting products, endorsing investments or asking for money.

Voice cloning is another growing concern, with AI capable of recreating someone's voice from a relatively small audio sample.

How to Spot an AI Deepfake

Deepfakes are improving, so relying on strange facial movements or robotic voices isn't enough.

Instead, pay attention to the context. Ask yourself:

·Is it unusual for this person to promote this product or investment?
·Are you being pressured to act immediately?
·Does the offer promise unusually high or guaranteed returns?
·Can you verify the information through the person's or organisation's official channels?

Fake celebrity endorsements are particularly common. In July 2026, ASIC warned Australians about increasingly sophisticated scams using fake celebrity endorsements and AI-generated Deepfake videos of prominent personalities. If a celebrity suddenly appears in your social media feed promising an incredible investment opportunity, don't click first and investigate later. Verify the claim independently.

How to Recognise a Fake or Phishing Email

The Australian Signals Directorate's cyber.gov.au defines phishing as fraudulent emails or messages designed to trick people into revealing information such as passwords, banking details, credit card information or verification codes.

While spelling mistakes can still be a warning sign, today's phishing emails can look remarkably professional. Instead, watch for:

·Unexpected requests for passwords or verification codes
·Urgent demands for payment
·Suspicious links or attachments
·Slightly altered sender addresses or domain names
·Requests to move conversations to another platform
·Messages asking you to bypass normal procedures

Rather than clicking a link in an unexpected email, navigate to the organisation's official website yourself or contact them using details you already trust.

What About AI Voice Scams?
Imagine receiving a call that sounds exactly like your boss, partner or child asking you to urgently transfer money. Your instinct might be to act immediately — which is exactly what the scammer wants.

If someone you know makes an unusual or urgent request involving money or sensitive information, end the conversation and contact them independently using a phone number you already have.

Stop, Check, Protect
As AI technology improves, the old advice of simply looking for bad spelling isn't enough. Scamwatch recommends three simple actions: Stop, Check and Protect.

Stop before handing over money or personal information.
Check that the person or organisation is really who they claim to be.
Protect yourself quickly if something doesn't feel right.

More Information:
Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC):
https://www.asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/find-a-media-release/2026-releases/26-157mr-asic-warning-pump-and-dump-scammers-intensify-use-of-fake-celebrity-endorsements
Scamwatch / National Anti-Scam Centre:
https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/stop-check-protect/help-to-spot-and-avoid-scams/how-



STAFF SPOTLIGHT
GET TO KNOW MITCH



What is your main role at the school?
I teach VPC Wilson on Mondays and Tuesdays and work across other classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays. I also take on the role of Learning Leader, supporting our teaching team to develop engaging learning programs and ongoing professional development, ensuring we provide the best possible learning experiences for all students.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
I enjoy making a difference in the lives of young people. I take pride in trying to provide a positive experience with education, as some students haven't had that previously.

What is your favourite pizza topping?
Easily pleased, meat lovers or margherita. Be sure to keep the pineapple away; there's no place for it on pizza.

What is one hobby or activity you enjoy outside of school?
I am a bit of a golf addict; I enjoy getting to the range or getting out on the course on a weekend and occasionally after school.

Share one fun fact about yourself that people might not know.
I am a break in family tradition; every firstborn son in our family has been named Thomas for as far back as you can see.

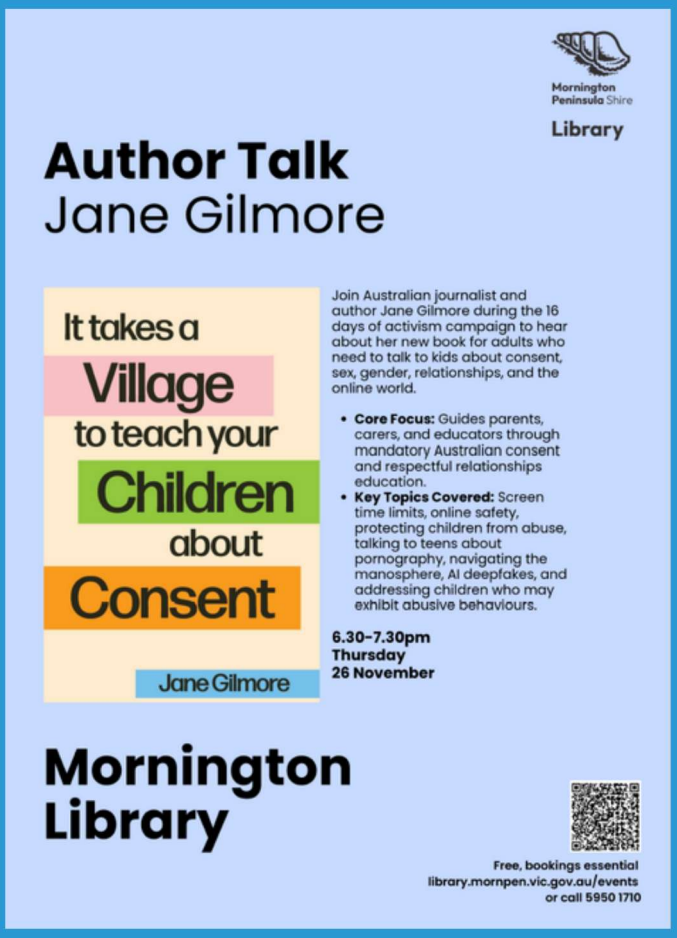
USEFUL LINKS AND WEBSITES

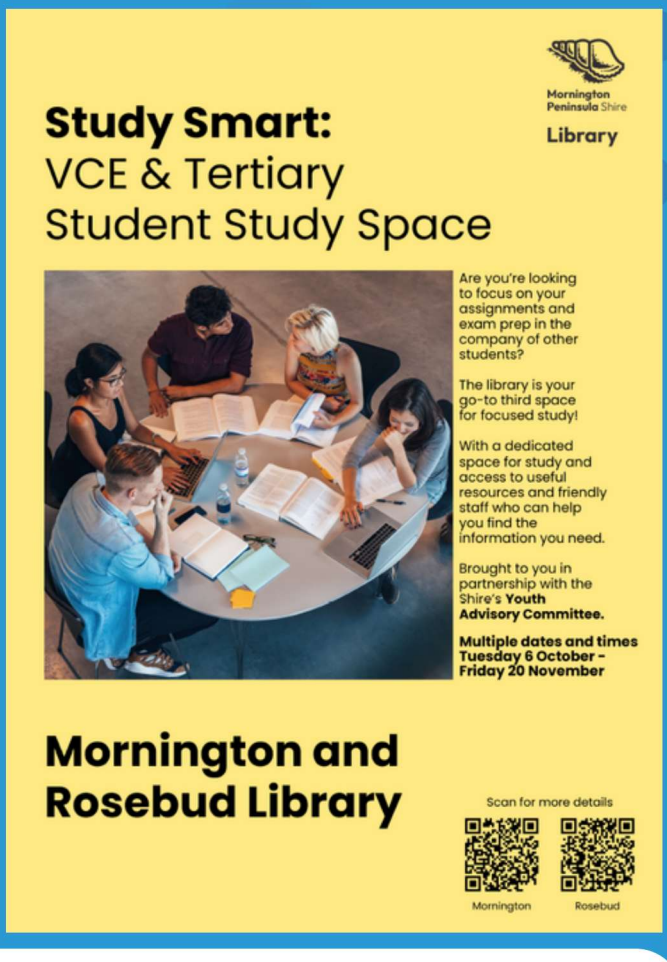
Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services
https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Services/Communities/Youth-services

Whats On Youth
https://whatsonyouth.org.au/

Youth Central
https://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/

Respectful Relationships
https://www.vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships







Help your learner get on the road with a free driving lesson!

The myLearners Free Driving Lesson program offers a FREE 60-minute Lesson with a professional driving instructor for learners aged 16–21 who have completed 10–50 hours of driving practice.

This program supports families by making the learning experience more positive and less stressful. It aims to reduce crash risks for young drivers, strengthen supervising skills, and encourage safer driving behaviours early on all at no cost to participants.

Find out more go to - http://mylearnersdrive.com.au

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Point Leo S.L.S.C.

BE WATER SMART • BE PREPARED • STAY SAFE • BE WATER SMART

Community Water Safety Day

Saturday 28 November 11.00am–2.00pm

Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club
55 Western Parade Pt Leo



Guest Speaker:
'Dr Rip' Professor Rob Brander

Scan here to learn more

- ✓ Live demonstrations
- ✓ Safety tips & information
- ✓ Activities for all ages
- ✓ LSV Rescue chopper fly over 12pm

Free event | All ages welcome | Registration essential

Supported by:

Life Saving Victoria · Mornington Peninsula Water Safety Alliance · belgravialeisure · Australian Volunteer Coast Guard · SES · PLAY IT SAFE BY THE WATER · Australian Red Cross · DSAMP · Surfing Victoria · Trigger Bros.



COMING UP

Wednesday, 18 November
Awards Night and Graduation Ceremony

Monday, 23rd November
Jump Start Commences

Friday 4th December
Last Day of Term 4
Early finish: 12:30 pm

Thursday 28th January 2027
Term 1 Commences

GENERAL INFORMATION

Absentee Reporting
Please login to the Compass Parent Portal or contact your campus to explain absences