It was very pleasing to see the substantial gains in achievement made by our year 9 students across all categories in the 2016 NAPLAN results. Valley View Secondary School has focussed very strongly on writing skill development in the last two years and achieved a lift of 75.1 in the writing mean score between 2014 and 2016 results, exceeding the target set in our Site Improvement Plan. The focus on writing has also resulted in significant gains across NAPLAN scores in reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation. The NAPLAN numeracy score was again the strongest area of performance with 96% of students achieving the National Minimum Standard. It is great to stop and celebrate success, confirming that our focus is getting results. However, we will continue to implement new strategies to further improve literacy and numeracy across the school as a priority to prepare students for success at senior school and beyond.

I encourage parents to discuss the NAPLAN results with year 9 students and where appropriate meet with teachers to discuss implications for learning. The NAPLAN results will be posted out to parents this week.

Our Primary Partnership program will be underway in week five enabling more than 400 year 6 and 7 students to access Secondary School facilities for specialized learning activities. The program supports primary and secondary teachers working together on Australian Curriculum to provide a seamless learning transition for the students in the Montague Partnership. In one session it will involve students learning different techniques used to separate different mixtures based on the properties of the mixtures and the substances in the mixture. Students will investigate filtration, chromatography, evaporation and magnetism. Another session will involve students in a healthy eating product design, project based activity, further developing research techniques, analysing advertising effectiveness, while extending ICT skills and design capability.

Congratulations to previous VVSS student Michelle Coonan, whom has recently moved to the USA to take up a 4 year ice hockey scholarship with a university in Illinois. Michelle is the first student from any public school in Australia to be awarded an ice hockey scholarship.

Steve Marshall
**SENIOR SOCCER**

On Thursday 4th of August, Valley View showcased a composite side of Year 9-11 students, both male and female, at the senior 5-a-side soccer carnival held at Para Hills High School. The Division 2 team consisted of Jarrod Hughes, Christie Robinson, Mohammed Conneh, Michael Little, Jakob McAuliffe-Megson, Cliff Rewai and Joel Holloway.

Although the competition was against schools with a greater number of students, this did not damper the enthusiasm of the players who were from all different sporting codes. The team had a successful day winning 4 games out of 7, unfortunately losing the play-off for 3rd place 2-0. This resulted in finishing in 4th place out of the 8 competing teams on the day.

The team’s choice of best players was Mohammed Conneh and Joel Holloway. Mohammed showed his talent and skills on the field as the leading goal scorer of the team on the day. Joel performed extremely well in goals against students from older year levels, saving many shots from the oppositions.

A big thank you on behalf of the team to Mr Scalzi and Mr Djemal for coaching the team throughout the competition and providing us with lunch and drinks on the day.

**HOMEWORK CLUB**

Homework has been identified as one of the major ways students can increase their success at school. This is particularly the case in the senior years where it becomes competitive especially with regards to University entry. In order to aid the success of students Valley View Secondary School holds Homework Club on Wednesday nights 3.15pm to 4.30pm.

All students are welcome to come and work in the library on any subject.

Computers and teacher help will be available, although students who are finishing compulsory SACE subjects will be prioritised for teacher help. We also encourage any ESL students to attend the study sessions as an ESL teacher will be present to assist.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

Rebecca Archer & Danielle Fattori
On the 5th of August the year 10 classes attended a science expo at the Royal Adelaide Show Grounds. We walked around in small groups and looked at all the different stands and activities. There was a nutrition stand that showed how big our portions of food should be per day. It was interesting to see how much we should be eating daily. For example, one third of a meat pie counts as one serving of food. Another fun thing was to control a remote control robot and make it move blocks into goals. The robot was on four wheels but they were all diagonal which made it harder to steer. There was also an air canon and huge smoke machine that shot smoke rings across the room. There were many more things to do at the Science Alive expo throughout the day and hundreds of kids from different schools were there as well. I learnt a lot of different things about science during the excursion and it was all very interesting.

Allanah Pix

One event that interested our group was the F1 simulator at the Flinders University stand. We each got a turn sitting in a cockpit that made you feel like you were inside the F1 car. The monitor display showed the track with the steering wheel and pedals part of the cockpit. When I drove I tried to beat the lap record. We got to see students from other schools try out the simulator while waiting. While we were walking around Ben saw the banner for CO₂ dragsters. They were discussing how they had put everything together and how the cars would take off. There was a launch off with both cars connected to a cylinder using a timer. On each side they had your reaction time after the siren went off and then you got to watch the CO₂ dragsters race against each other. It was very exhilarating seeing how fast the cars would go. If we had more time we would have been able to participate and compete to see who had the quickest reaction time.

Raffaele Lioi

I went with the school on the excursion but on the next day I went with my family to experience Science Alive a bit more. As I walked around I saw people who make robots out of wood and little bits of metal. They use the robots to battle each other. I also noticed the car simulator from the day before but it was on a different track. We stopped to see a stand about all sorts of inventions made from recycled materials. One of these was an air cannon which you would aim and then hold a button it would make a noise and then would pop as air was released. The air would move your clothes and hair like you were hit with a strong wind. At the end my brother noticed a giant dolphin skeleton sculpture and he made his own animal skeleton sculpture. Another stand was about automotive engineering. It was about a car engine that had something completely wrong with it. I had to figure out what was wrong with the car and how could I fix it using a set of tools that were next to it. The problem with the engine was that it didn’t have an cooling fan. I got details saying I could become one of these engineers by doing maths study and where I could apply for it. It was a wonderful experience and great fun.

Seth Potts
CONGRATULATIONS

To Samantha & Marc
On the birth of a baby boy

Archie Lewis

Born 5\textsuperscript{th} August 2016
At 12:24pm
Weighing 3.65kg (8lb 1oz)

Samantha Davenport-Wilmhurst