An analysis of term one grades shows an increase of more than 4% in A-C grades across all year levels. While “A” grades remained fairly stable the “B” grades increased by 3.5% and “C” grades increased by 1.3%. The increased focus on “teaching and learning as our core business” is driving improvement in student achievement.

Governing Council has approved a student free day for Friday May 10th which will provide Valley View Secondary School staff with the opportunity to further focus on Australian Curriculum task design. In particular there will be an emphasis on “Intellectual Stretch” and extending student’s learning. The development of low entry, high ceiling tasks, enables every student the opportunity to succeed while also providing enough rigor and challenge for the more capable students to demonstrate high level understanding and skills. It is anticipated this approach will continue to drive higher levels of achievement for all students.

Governing Council this week also approved a range of updates to school policy including the assessment and reporting policy requiring all subjects to be assessed and reported against using Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Further information about Valley View Secondary School policies may be downloaded from the school web site.

A change of school culture started in 2015 with the identification and introduction of our core values, Respect, Integrity, Optimism, Responsibility and Support. It is pleasing to see those values now firmly embedded in the very fabric of the school and visitors are often very complimentary about students and the learning environment. Parents involved in school tours often comment on the politeness of students and the general focus on learning in class. I would like to congratulate students on bringing about this change which has resulted in gaining much community respect. The positive school culture, combined with the sharp lift in student achievement have been at the core of the renewed interest in Valley View Secondary School as the school of choice to deliver quality educational programs.

Congratulations to Mick Grubner on being selected to represent South Australia in the Australian Secondary Schools Rugby League Championships which will be held at Brisbane later in July.

Steve Marshall

Newly inducted SRC members at a recent assembly

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 31 May
Year 11 Electrotech UniSA excursion

Friday 10 June
Student Free Day
Staff Training & Development

Monday 13 June
Queen’s Birthday—Public Holiday

Wednesday 15 June
SACE Aboriginal Students Pathways Conference

Thursday 16 June
Science & Engineering Challenge

Sunday 19 June
Race 1 Pedal Prix Victoria Park

Monday 20 June—Thursday 23 June
Senior School Exams
**Year 8 Science**

To begin term 2, our year 8 students have been studying a physics unit relating to Energy. One of our year 8 classes have been lucky enough to have a student teacher Gary Purewal, who has worked exceptionally hard with the students to help them achieve their best. Our other year 8 Science class have been lucky enough to be involved in the C2C Holden Cruze Vehicle Challenge. This challenge requires students to design, manufacture and test ‘Scalextrics’ cars with a focus on creating a car that can be assembled, disassembled and raced at speed. Our first session revolved around the manufacture of the vehicles where students were aided by the expertise of Ron Stevens. The next step is to use the Electrotech lab to solder the motor to the body so the cars can be tested on the track. The students are thoroughly enjoying this experience with the added opportunity for the best team to represent our school at the C2C expo later in the year and race their cars against the best from other schools. Well done to all students involved.

Sam Davenport

**Year 9 Soccer—5 A Side**

On Friday 13th of May, Valley View Secondary School had 10 eager year 9 students taking part in 5-side soccer carnival at Windsor Gardens Vocational College.

Mr Scalzi and Mr Librino (Student Teacher) coached the two teams who played in the competition. The following students participated in the Division 1 team, Tyler Grainger-Balding, Joel Holloway, Ryleigh Travis (Captain), Declan Berryman and Bronson Fry. The first team lost in their final to Windsor Gardens by 1 goal. The Division 2 consisted of Angus Eckermann (Captain), Lucas Browning, Mohammed Najafi, Erin Leach and Tyiesha Wanganeen. They did not make the finals but they played as a team and had an enjoyable day. The leading goal scorer for Valley View Secondary School was Lucas Browning with 6 goals. As a school, we had the most girls that participated in the carnival. Although it was a long day both teams tried hard and unfortunately the Division 2 team could not get to play in the finals.

It was great to see parents coming along to support our students. Well done, year 9 students!!!

Joel, Tyler and Ryleigh
Year 9 Students
ABORIGINAL POWER CUP 2016

Last week two of our Aboriginal students participated in the annual Aboriginal Power Cup carnival, now in its 9th year at Alberton Oval. This is part of the South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA) which involves over 40 high schools and 400 students organised into academies state wide. Our students are involved in the Mawson Lakes Academy at UniSA and attend SAASTA at least once a week. In the first semester students have been working on their compulsory Maths credits and integrated learning tasks for the Power Cup carnival and completion of this will assist students to gain credits which will go towards their SACE. In the second semester students will be competing in the SAASTA Shield. Completion of these two components will enable students to gain SACE credits and a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation. We hope to have more students involved in the program next year.

Robyn Coulthard
Aboriginal Secondary Education Transition Officer

This year my brother and I were lucky enough to be involved in the Aboriginal Power Cup for the first time. The atmosphere at Alberton Oval was thrilling and it was such an unforgettable experience. On Thursday the 19th May both of our teams won three out of four games. On Friday our girls’ team won two from four games and the boys had a great day winning all four games.

Unfortunately our girls’ team didn’t make the grand final but the boys were lucky enough to play on Adelaide Oval against Murray Bridge before the Port Adelaide and West Coast game. Our boys gave it 110% and finished with the grand final win!

We also participated in a cultural performance on Adelaide Oval, we were very proud to be celebrating our culture in front of the spectators.

As well as football we participated in a career expo over the two days of football and we had to fill out a survey. Before we knew it Aaron won a mini ipad.

Overall, it was a great three days with a great mixture of sport, culture and learning. We are so grateful to have been a part of the carnival.

Chelsea and Aaron Holloway
Year 11 & 10 students
During term 1 school holidays, myself and James attended the National Space Camp (NSC) held at the Victorian Space Science Education Centre (VSSEC). It was a 3 day, residential camp held in Melbourne, all flights and accommodation was subsidised in part by the school, the Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith Fund. VSSEC shares its grounds with Strathmore Secondary College, which is about 9kms north-west from Melbourne CBD. They offer many highly made programs, such as Mission to Mars (MTM), Primary Expedition to the M.A.R.S. Base, VCE Astrophysics, and so forth.

The program we undertook was the Mission to Mars, and that itself, is split into 2 sections. The Thursday we arrived was dedicated to the pre-mission briefings. This comprised of a lecturer warning us about the effects of radiation in our bodies, low gravity and its relation on how our muscles/bones degrade over time, etc. We were also introduced to fitness and what types of fitness routines are effective for astronauts and we also had a chances to test some routines out on some willing test subjects.

Friday dawned on us. It was time for our mission. We were both lucky enough to score leadership positions. James’ role was the Mission Director on Earth, and he was in charge of the astronauts’ wellbeing and issuing tasks during the expedition onto Mars. My role, being the Commander of the ground expedition, was to be the first on the ground, and last to get out. Assigning roles to the appropriate people was also part of the job (rock related stuff to geologist, chemistry stuff with the geochemist). I was also liaising with the Mission Director (which was James) making sure those on the ground weren’t exposed to high levels of radiation, and to not get caught up in fearsome Mars dust storms.

The trip to Melbourne wasn’t all serious. On Friday night, James and I got to go to see the sights of Melbourne, and even had the pleasure of visiting the Eureka tower. The sights was amazing, and we took a lot of photos. We also toured Southbank, getting to feast on the many restaurants on offer.

Overall, attending the National Space Camp was an amazing and life changing adventure. I strongly suggest anyone who’d like to be part of this, to apply, or come and see myself and James.

Michael Santos
Year 11 Student