Message from our Campus Principal—Matt Jobling

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started.” Mark Twain

Welcome

Welcome to all our students and families for the 2017 school year. We would especially like to welcome new students and their families who are joining the Kurnai Learning community for the first time. We hope you enjoy and add to the positive learning environment at Churchill Campus. It has been great to see students already actively engaged in classes and taking on the challenge of learning.

At our campus assembly on Tuesday morning I shared some learning I experienced through participating in the Churchill Parkrun on Saturday mornings over the last 12 months. I spoke about how I had wanted to get fit and so started doing the Parkrun. In the first few months my fitness and times improved regularly however they then started to plateau for the next few months and there was not much improvement at all. I heard about a group from the Parkrun that were joining up for a run on Wednesday evenings and I went along thereby putting more effort in during the week. Then one of the runners who leads the Wednesday evening run, Ben, offered to run with me on a Saturday and give me some feedback to help me improve my time.
On the Saturday Ben ran with me and gave me advice and encouragement the whole way and I beat my personal best time (PB) by 30 seconds. Although exhausted it was exhilarating to have beat my PB by so much.

Toward the end of last year I read a chapter of a book titled ‘Building Classroom Success’ that was used in the Churchill Cluster learning sessions where staff from our surrounding primary schools and Kurnai Churchill meet afterschool to learn together. The chapter focused on goal setting and mentioned that goals that revolve around success being linked to beating others can be far less helpful than goals that focus on achieving a PB, i.e. performing at a higher level than their previous performance. I immediately thought of my experience through the Parkrun and could relate to how this approach was instrumental in my improvement over the year.

If we base our success on how well we do compared to others we can often be disheartened. Whilst we may be improving, so might they and so the gap may still be there. The important thing is that over time we continue to improve our performance from our previous best.

The key points I emphasised to the students were that by working together with others, by accepting help, encouraging each other, staying positive and putting in the effort you will be able to achieve a new PB in performance, skill or knowledge.

After a positive start this week we are now looking forward to a great year of learning together and achieving new PBs!

Staff Update

This year we have welcomed a number of new staff in the campus, some were able to join us for Headstart at the end of last year and others have begun this week. They are:

- Shane McColl (Wellbeing Advocate)
- Alyssa Bell (Classroom Support)
- Jane Li (Chinese Language Support)

At the end of last year our Year 7 Team Leader Reece Malcolmson was appointed Assistant Principal at the new Morwell Central Primary School and although we are sad to lose his services we wish him all the best in the new role. Celeste Hardy who is the Year 7 Assistant Team Leader has stepped into the Team Leader role in an acting capacity.

Also during the holiday break Dean Gowing accepted a position at Traralgon Secondary College and we wish him all the best in his new IT teaching role at that school. As a consequence we will need to cover some of his planned classes with other staff until a replacement can be secured.

Year Level Leadership Structure

Churchill Campus has teams of teachers at each year level to support students and where possible the classroom teachers predominately teach in the year levels associated with their team.

The teams are led by a Team Leader and an Assistant Team Leader as follows;

- Year 7  Celeste Hardy (Acting Team Leader)
- Year 8  Lindy Gumpold & Sarah Cohen
- Year 9  Sheryl Tangi & Robin Fitzpatrick
- Year 10 Nicole Ashton & Andy Leeson

Any query in relation to the learning progress of your child or any general issues is best directed to the team leaders or assistant team leaders.

Student Wellbeing Team

Our Student Wellbeing team for 2017 will be led by Sally Sandy as Lead Advocate, Tom Kindellan and Shane McColl as Advocates, and Selena Gray as Welfare Advocate. The team has a range of expertise and will be providing support with wellbeing issues at the campus this year. If any student would like to speak to a team member they are welcome to do so by going to the Wellbeing office in GP8.

School Photos

Photos will be taken on the morning of **Wednesday 8th February**. Students will have already received their photo information pack via their formgroup and need to bring back the photo forms with correct payment on the day to give to the photographer.

Excursions

The College Swimming Sports are on Thursday 16th February and permission forms will need to be returned by the date stated on the form to ensure students can attend. If permission forms are not returned by the due date printed on the form students will not be able to attend the trips and excursions.
Newsletters

A reminder that our normal distribution method is by email and any family that has not yet provided an email address can do so by calling our general office on 51323700. There will still be some hardcopies of the newsletter available from the General Office for students to collect if emailing is not convenient.

Student Uniform

Kurnai College values its image in the community and strives to continually improve our reputation, one area in which we particularly need the support of families is student uniform. Student dress standards promote a positive image of the school within the community and it promotes a sense of identity with the college. Please be aware of the correct school uniform options, there are details of the uniform options in this newsletter. On occasions where students are out of uniform they need to come to the office where they will be given a College uniform to wear for the day. Thank you to all families for support on this matter.
Year 7 News ..........

General News:

A big welcome back to all year 7 students and their families. The start of the year is always very busy and 2017 is no different. The year 7 team of teachers have been extremely impressed with the positive way in which students have stepped in to secondary school life. Students appear to be happy and engaged in all areas of school to date.

Year 7 Staff Team

We are lucky to have a great team of teachers working together to provide the best possible start to your child’s secondary schooling experience. Please feel free to contact any of the teachers regarding classes or the school day. Our year 7 Team consists of:

Acting Team Leader: Celeste Hardy
Year 7 Team: Russell White, Mary Corponi, Erin Gruis, Andrea Flake, Cathy Tan and Kline

Welcome BBQ:

We will be running a welcome BBQ on Thursday 9th of February here at Kurnai College Churchill for all year 7 families. This is a great opportunity to have a short meet and greet of our teachers, and fellow parents in a relaxed atmosphere.

When: Thursday 9th February, 6:00 p.m.

Uniform:

Students overall have been very good with uniform. Just a reminder for students, now that they are aware of their time tables, is to remember to bring their P.E. uniform to change into.

Reminder: Shoes – Predominately Black in colour (Except for shoes used for P.E)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding uniform please contact the school or send an email to hardy.celeste.n@edumail.vic.gov.au

Silent Reading/Independent Reading

At Kurnai we acknowledge the importance of every student reading on a regular basis. At year 7 we provide 20 minutes each morning to read a book of choice. It is important that this book is at the right level for your child. We encourage parents to ask questions about the book that your student is reading and even encourage that they read at home.

Permission Slips

We ask that parents and guardians support us in assisting your students in making sure that they have access to every opportunity that secondary school provides. Students tend to forget to bring permission slips home and in turn are not able to attend different events. Please ask your child if they have permission forms that need signing on a regular basis.

Currently Immunisation forms have been sent home, and soon the following will be sent:

Swimming Sports
School Photos
Music Program Forms – (Not for all students)
Year 7 Camp (to be sent home in the following weeks)
Year 7 News ..........

Contact Details
If you have any questions or concerns regarding year 7 students or programs, please don't hesitate to email us or phone on 51323700

hardy.celeste.n@edumail.vic.gov.au
Year 8 News ..........  

The staff of the Year 8 team would like to welcome all students, parents and friends back to the 2016 school year.

The Team Members

This year the Year 8 team members are: Lindy Gumpold (Team Leader), Sarah Cohen (Assistant Team Leader), Glen Stephenson (Maths and Science); Ross Fitzpatrick (Art and Science); Rebecca Lynch (English and Humanities); Chris Flake (Woodwork and HOL); and Ran Li (Chinese).

If you would like to discuss any issues concerning your child or would like to know more about the Year 8 program please contact the Year 8 team.

Silent Reading

Form Group time is continued to be used for silent reading. It has been a great start by the Year 8 students as they are arriving in a timely manner for this class and settle into reading quietly. This year the Year 8 team have decided that the students will need to be reading a book or reading an ebook from a tablet during this session rather than using their phones to read. It was felt that reading for the 20 minutes from a phone screen would make reading an ebook difficult and also place too much stress on the eyes. During this reading time the students will also be completing a reading log. The members of the Year 8 team will also be able to listen to the students reading one-on-one which may help with the students gaining confidence in reading.

School Photos

All Year 8 students have received their school photo form. It needs to be brought back on Wednesday the 8th February when the photos will be taken. Even if you have decided not to purchase photos the form still needs to come back as it contains the information that is used to process individual photos which will be used to update those in Compass and on any Bus Passes which require photo ID.

Swimming Sports

The school Swimming Sports will take place on Thursday the 16th of February. This day is a normal school day, except that it is held at the swimming pool. Students will need to be wearing school uniform or PE uniform or their house colours. It would be great if the students could wear their house colours so that they can provide a colourful and supportive environment for all competitors on the day. All Year 8 students should have received their permission form which contains all of their details. This permission form does need to be brought back to school by Monday 13th of February. If your child does not have a permission form please have them ask the Office staff for a new permission form.
Year 9 News

Welcome to the new year of 2017! The staff of the Year 9 team would like to thank all of the students for their great start to the year. Our students are currently reviewing the classroom rules for each of their classes and are learning the expectations required for Year 9. We look forward to having a great year full of positives outcomes for all students!

Team Members

This year the Year 9 team members are: Sheryl Tangi (Team Leader Maths / Science), Robin Fitzpatrick (Assistant Team Leader, Health/ PE and Science), Dave Frendo (Technology) and Olivia Wall (English and Humanities and SWPBS), Joseph Bonnici (Music) and Ian Hopkins (Music).

Mentoring

Beginning next week each of the Year 9 students will be allocated a team teacher as a mentor. Each teacher will have approximately fifteen students assigned to them to catch up with during form group time. This will allow the students to build their confidence, help develop a rapport with the staff, enable the school to be proactive and assist students more quickly with any concerns.

Camp

We would like to invite all Year 9 students to a camp in Melbourne later on this year in August. We will be visiting many of the highlights in the city including Vic Market, Eureka Tower etc. It is also a great opportunity to see firsthand what the big city has to offer.

School Photos

All Year 9 students have been given an order form for the school photos that will be taken on Wednesday 8th February next week.

Swimming Sports

The school swimming sports will be on Thursday 16th February. All students will be given a permission form shortly that needs to be returned a.s.a.p. please

A reminder to call our ABSENCE HOTLINE 5132 3711 preferably before 9am if your child is not going to be at school. This will ensure your child’s absence is recorded correctly and you don’t receive a phone call from our office
PBS

Students can now receive a raffle ticket for showing consistent positive behaviours re the school matrix by their teacher. These tickets go into a raffle as well as counting as points that can allow the student to choose a prize from the PBS cupboard after they get to five or more points. Students are also receiving postcards for displaying consistent behaviours for the four school pillars of Excellence, Relationships, Work Ethic and Engagement.

Reminders

- Students will require a device (please contact us if you need some support).
- Students need to be at school by 8:25 am.
- Students need to be in complete school uniform (please contact us if you need some support).

Contact Details

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Year 9 students please don't hesitate to e-mail us or phone on 51323700

tangi.sheryl.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
fitzpatrick.robin.e@edumail.vic

Insurance and Ambulance Cover

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. In some circumstances, medical or other expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, that the Department is liable for negligent (careless) acts or omissions of its staff or volunteers.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.
Welcome back

The year 10 team would like to welcome all students back at the beginning of a new school year. We would like to congratulate the students on the positive start that they have made and encourage them to continue this throughout the term and the year. A reminder that our day begins with a reading sessions and students should be bringing a novel of their choice to read during this time. We would also like to remind students about the importance of being prepared and ensuring that they have all of their necessary equipment to assist them with their learning.

Team Building Day

A Team building day for all year 10 students will be held on Tuesday February 22nd at the Mirboo North Pool. Permission slips have been handed out to students and must be returned no later than Monday the 20th of February. Students who are unable to attend the excursion will have a programme running at the school campus. The day is an opportunity for all year 10 students from the Churchill and Morwell campuses to participate in fun activities together with teachers, to help develop rapport and build relationships. A BBQ lunch will be provided as well as a $5 voucher for the pool kiosk.

Work Experience

During team time students are beginning the process of identifying potential careers they would like to explore during work experience in term 2, April the 24th to May 5th. Work experience is an opportunity for students to see firsthand what is involved on a day to day basis in the workplace. It also allows students the opportunity to explore 2 different career paths in a real world situation.

Central Australia Camp

Planning has begun for the Central Australia Tour which will take place from the 13th of September to the 22nd of September. The camp is a great way for students to see some of the amazing country that we live in. Notices that contain further information regarding the camp can be collected by students from the year 10 office.
## Calendar of Excursions / Camps

### Year 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Excursion</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Form &amp; Payment Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14, 21, 28</td>
<td>Life Saving</td>
<td>$47.00</td>
<td>10th February</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2, 7, 3, 17 March</td>
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### Year 8

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 - 19 February</td>
<td>VYLC Predeparture Camp</td>
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### Year 9

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### Year 10

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<td>22nd February</td>
<td>Year 10 Team Building Day</td>
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### Multi Years

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<tbody>
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<td>16th February</td>
<td>College Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>13th February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23rd March</td>
<td>College Athletics</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>13th February</td>
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Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

**Why it’s important**

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

**Getting in early**

It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

**What we can do**

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – When students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

**For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:**


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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development