Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to 2016. We hope that everyone had a relaxing break over Christmas and New Year. It has been the usual organised chaos that is the start of every school year but it seems that everything is settling into the normal routine.

We apologise for some movement of students in their classes, particularly for students in Year 11. Unfortunately there were uneven numbers in classes and in a few cases numbers exceeded the maximum under the industrial agreement so changes were necessary.

You probably will have heard about the hoax calls being made to schools all over Australia. We have received numerous communications from the Department of Education and Training on this matter. Be assured that we have appropriate evacuation and lockdown procedures in place and meet with Departmental and Federation University guidelines. So far we have not received the dreaded phone call and we will keep our fingers crossed that this continues.

New Staff

At the start of each New Year there is usually some movement of staff. Across the College we have a large number of new teachers and support staff, but luckily at the University Campus the changes have been minimal. Claire Seymour has moved to us from Narre Warren P-12 to take over the leadership of the Kurnai Young Parents Program (KYPP) now located on Federation University grounds. Matt Woodhouse will be teaching Biology, Outdoor Ed, Psychology, Maths and VET Sport and Recreation. Finally Cheryle Taylor is now our lab technician supporting the Science teachers and students in practical work. We welcome all of them and hope that the enjoy their time at the University Campus.
Message from Campus Principals Contd…

New Students
We are very happy with the increasing student numbers at the University Campus. So far we have enrolled about 60 students from outside of the Kurnai Junior Campuses. These ‘newbies’ had their first meeting together last week. They were supplied with mountains of chips and drink and were encouraged to mingle with others they did not know. We appreciate how difficult it can be starting at a new school after many years in a familiar setting. So for this reason we will be having a couple of these informal meetings this term. We will also be touching base with parents of new students to ensure that they’re decision to transfer to Kurnai will be fully supported.

2016 School Captains
The process of electing school captains has began. We have had a healthy number of applicants putting their hand up for these positions. Interviews have been held to short list the group and all those who get through will then go on the ballot for students to vote. This will happen next week and results should be known by the end of the week. More on this in the next newsletter.

Geoff and Nello

Debutante Ball 2016
Parents and Carers of students planning to do the Debutante Ball in 2016 need to be aware that as the Deb is an external event to the curriculum, conditions are placed on student participation. One of those conditions is that families with outstanding charges are required to bring them up to date before their child can attend the Debutante Ball.

This does not include the College’s standard levies but costs that should have already been paid. This includes charges such as netbooks, damage to school property, music or outstanding balances for camps and excursions.

We are happy to organise payment plans where necessary.

The College also has Centrepay facilities. Anyone receiving any type of payments through Centrelink can sign up to automatically have fortnightly amounts deducted from their payments to cover material charges, camps and excursions. Forms are available from each Campus office.

College Swimming Sports on Tuesday 16th February
All senior students are expected to attend. Permission forms will be distributed via English classes very soon. Signed forms need to be returned to school before the actual day (students who return forms on the morning of the event will not come!). Event sign-ups will occur on the day.

Bring your bathers, towel, food and drink, sunscreen. Please dress in your house colour (student house colour lists are displayed in the foyer to the library).
Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their achievements.

CSEF will be provided to eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students

How to Apply

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website.

Key Dates

All applicants must complete and lodge their submission by 29 February 2016. This applies to 2015 applicants seeking funding in 2016.

Yr12 Outdoor and Environmental Studies excursion to Walhalla

The class went on an excursion to Walhalla to learn about historical relationships Australians had with the land during the Gold Rush period. As Walhalla was once one of the richest gold mines in the world, it was the perfect location for the excursion. The class had a look at Horseshoe Bend, an area of the nearby Thompson River which was actually diverted to allow gold mining to occur in a certain section of the river. The class also had a look at the Walhalla Cemetery, an eerie reminder of just how hard life was back in the 19th century. Finally, students went on a tour of the Long Tunnel Mine, 300 metres into the side of the mountain, deep underground. Here, tour leader Ben explained the dangerous techniques that were employed to extract the precious material. Students were well behaved and seemed to have a good time.
Busy, busy, busy! We have hit the ground running in VCAL. Students have settled well into their classes and are working hard to meet the outcomes in Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development and Work Related Skills. Starting VET in their chosen field has been exciting for most students.

Just a reminder that Monday period 5 is a study period for all VCAL students. Students have access to teachers, aides and classroom resources to complete work they may be behind in or if they need extra assistance with their class work. Students are able to bring in their VET work or to see careers with assistance to find work placement or part time work.

**Structured Workplace Learning**

SWL offers students the opportunity to get skills and experience in a variety of industries. We are very fortunate that we have fantastic support from our local employers who take student on every Friday. Year 12s are expected to be out on work placement by Friday the 19th of February, whilst year 11s will commence on Friday 15th April. We are always looking for businesses to take our students on (we need to place 90 students). If you are a local business owner who would like to take on a placement student, please call the VCAL team or careers on 5132 3800.

**Kurnai Kafe**

The Kurnai Kafe is flat out before school and recess serving up coffees, toasties and baked goodies. Our Catering class are offering lunches and healthy snacks Mondays and Tuesdays. Our salad rolls, fruit cups and hamburgers have gone down a treat, with students snapping up our cheap healthy offerings.

Don’t forget that before school students can grab a coffee, hot chocolate or a milkshake along with a $1 toastie (yep, just $1 for a ham and cheese or a cheese toastie). Recess we have a range of baked treats – this week is lemon slice to have with your coffee.

The Kafe is run by staff and students. Please call by and support our little business and grab some yummy food.

At lunchtime over the next two weeks we will have:

**Monday 15 February**

Salad rolls $2

Fruit cups with/without yoghurt $1

**Tuesday 16 February** - no lunches as it is swimming sports

**Monday 22 February**

Roast chicken or ham and salad wraps $3

Fruit cups with/without yoghurt $1

**Tuesday 23 February**

Roast lamb and gravy rolls $3
VCAL Metal Class

The VCAL Metal class is up and running and after weeks of OH&S students were pleased to get out on the floor. Cameron Stewart filing, Harry Atkins hacksawing and Connor Gunn marking out are setting the pace with their Year 11 hand tools project. The Year 12s are currently designing their 1st semester project and can’t wait to get started. With the brand new pan brake machine on the floor and a guillotine on its way there are some great opportunities for students. Plans to set up Aluminium welding as well means the Technology Metal area is becoming an excellent learning environment.
The University Campus’ PBS team and staff are continuing our push for highly improved attendance. We feel that too many lessons, too many days and too many opportunities are being lost by students having a ‘relaxed’ view on attendance. The PBS team are investigating the best ways to manage attendance and have already had lectures, posters, newsletter items and COMPASS notifications informing students and families of the benefits of continual attendance.

If you struggle with either getting your kids to school consistently or you are a student who struggles to maintain solid attendance – take the time and have a read of the information below. Call the school if you want to discuss concerns or ideas about getting to school.

**Why is Attendance 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.

Schools are there to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues. 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: • Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up. • 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. 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.

**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. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees 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.
To ensure the smooth organization and running of camps and excursions we request that permission forms and payments be returned to the school by the due date on the permission form. This enables the purchase of train tickets, food and venue tickets etc. in a timely manner.

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**Attendance**
The College attendance line is 03 5132 3711 and can be called at any time to leave a message.
Students who Live in Morwell and Travel to and from Churchill (Eligible travellers)

All students in Year 11 & 12 should now have received or completed a 2016 Conveyance Form (Green). Please check the information on the form, complete and sign before returning to the General Office prior to 19th February, 2016.

If you have misplaced this form please go to the General Office for a replacement.

This form is so that the Kurnai College can claim money on your behalf to pay directly to Latrobe Valley Bus Lines for students to travel on the bus in 2016.

If this form is not returned students/families will be required to purchase their own MYKI card as the school has not been authorised to claim these funds.

Public Bus Travel for Ineligible Students - MYKI Card Required

- Morwell students attending Churchill Campus
- Traralgon students attending University Campus and Churchill Campus
- Newly enrolled students to Kurnai College in Year 11 or 12 who live in Morwell

Students who are not attending their closest school are not eligible for Conveyance Allowance (assistance with financial costs to travel to school).


We encourage families to purchase either a Student Yearly or Half Yearly Concession Card with MYKI Card from their local V/Line Station. This allows your child to travel anywhere within Victoria for free as per PTV website terms and conditions.

Concession cards can be used on the following services:

- On train, tram and bus passenger services operating in metropolitan Melbourne
- On train and bus passenger services operated by V/Line throughout regional Victoria
- And other public transport services operated under contract or service agreement with Public Transport Victoria (PTV).


PTV Student Travel Information

Do students need concession cards?

16 years and under

If you are a student aged 16 and under (and don't travel with a Student Pass) you can travel on concession fares. You do not need a concession card.

If you wish to use the student pass, then you must also have a Victorian Public Transport Student Concession Card.
17 years and over
If you are a student aged 17 and over, you must carry a valid Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Concession Card to travel on concession fares.

Travelling with a student pass
If you are a primary or secondary student travelling with a Victorian Student Pass or Regional Transit Student Pass, you must also have a Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card with your pass number endorsed on your concession card. The pass and concession card must be carried at all times when travelling.

VPT Student Concession Cards are generally only available to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Student passes
If you are a primary or secondary student with a Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card, you may be able to buy a yearly or half yearly student pass. The pass provides great savings for regular travellers.

The type of student pass you need depends on where you travel.

Victorian Student Pass
The Victorian Student Pass gives you unlimited travel on metropolitan trains, trams and buses, on all regional town bus services and all V/Line train and coach services operating wholly within Victoria.

The pass is a myki and should be shown to public transport staff on request when travelling on services where myki is not operating.

To travel on this pass, you must also have a Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card with your pass number endorsed on your concession card. The pass and concession card must be carried at all times when travelling.

Applying for a Victorian Public Transport Student Concession Card or Student Pass
2016 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student/Tertiary Concession Cards and Student Passes are now available for sale and the application forms are available from V/Line Office, PTV Website or at Campus General Offices.

Contracted School Buses
(Hazelwood North, Yinnar/Hazelwood South, Boolarra, Whitelaws Track and Jeeralang Buses)

Students accessing these services are reminded that there is no adhoc travel. Students may only access their designated bus and are not permitted to have friends accompany them to and from school. The bus and bus stop designated are the only stop you should be getting on and off the bus.

These protocols are as per DET Guidelines for Emergency Management.

If you should have any queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to contact Leonie Mackie 51650610 or Fiona Fraser 51323 708.
School Bus Program

This leaflet will help explain the School Bus Program and assist families in determining their eligibility to travel on a school bus.

While parents/guardians are primarily responsible for getting their children to and from school, the School Bus Program assists families in rural and regional Victoria by transporting students to school. The School Bus Program serves both government and non-government schools.

Categories of eligibility determine whether a student travels at no cost or travels upon the payment of a fare. Students wishing to access a seat on a bus must complete an application form and parents/guardians must agree to the conditions of travel, including, if applicable, the payment of a fare.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) administers the School Bus Program as directed by the policy. The Student Transport Unit of the Department of Education and Training (DET) sets the policy and provides general transport advice to regional offices and schools.

To be eligible for a seat on a bus at no cost a student must:
1. attend their nearest government school or nearest appropriate non-government school, which is determined by the determination of the school
2. reside 8.8 km or more from the school
3. reside in Victoria

Students are expected to access public transport if it is within 1.6 km of their home or closer than their nearest school bus service.

Exemptions
- The policy has some exemptions where a student may be granted access to a bus service at no cost. These exemptions are limited and specific.
- Exemptions are not granted on the basis of financial hardship.

Fare paying
- Government and non-government students not attending their nearest appropriate school are required to pay a fare as set by PTV.
- A fine paying student may be required to relinquish their seat if the service is at capacity and an eligible non-paying student government and non-government wishes to access the service. The status of a fare paying students is assessed each term.
- Parents/guardians may cease paying that their child will travel as long as they pay a fare and seating capacity exists.
- Parents/guardians agree to make alternative travel arrangements should their child be required to relinquish their seat.
- Fare paying students do not form a case for service reduction.

Conditions of travel and parental responsibilities
- Students and parents/guardians must agree to comply with the conditions of travel as stated on the back of all School Bus Program travel application forms.
- Parents/guardians understand that school bus travel is a privilege and not a right.

Special cases
- Families may apply for special consideration in complex and challenging transport circumstances (not including financial hardship). An application for special case consideration can be made through the school and requires DET regional endorsement and any documentation that supports the case.
- Speak to your school’s bus coordinator for further information on special case consideration.

Emergency management
- In the event of an emergency school bus services will be cancelled if any part of the route is deemed at risk.
- A rapid response emergency or school bus service return will be cancelled if any part of the route is deemed at risk.
- The school’s emergency management plan.

Further information
- Go to www.education.vic.gov.au/travellingbustooth for travel application forms and the School Bus Program policy and procedures. For further assistance with your application, please contact the bus coordinator at the school your child will be attending.
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**Dates for the Diary:**

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<td>Test; experiencing outdoor environments</td>
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<td>Year 12 Food Tech</td>
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<td>Year 11 Health &amp; Human Dev.</td>
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<td>Part B. Nutrition &amp; Biological Determinants of Health</td>
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<td>Determinants of Health &amp; Youth Issues</td>
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<td>Year 12 Health &amp; Human Dev.</td>
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<td>National Health Priority Areas &amp; Nutrition</td>
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</table>
Parents and students are advised to check Compass for the current policy and processes regarding Missed SACs and Redemption Tasks.

Students who miss a SAC for whatever reason will now be expected to complete it after school on the first Monday following the SAC under the supervision of the Principal. Teachers will contact parents to let them know of the details.

Students who hand work in that is not likely to meet the Outcomes will be expected to complete similar tasks in order to pass the Outcome. If this task is of a written nature students are expected to complete the new task after school on a Monday under the supervision of the Principal. Teachers will inform students and parents/guardians of the details.

If you have any questions regarding this new process please contact me on 5132 3800 or cropper.bernadette.b@edumail.vic.gov.au

Bernadette Cropper
VCE COORDINATOR

Year 11 and Year 12 VCE Exam Schedule

**Mid-Year Exams**
Year 11 - 30 May – 3 June
Year 12 – 6 June – 10 June

**General Achievement Test - GAT**
All Year 12s and Year 11s undertaking a Year 12 course in 2016 – 7 June

**End of Year Exams**
Year 12 VCE Written Exams – 26 October – 18 November
Year 11 Exams – 17 – 23 November

Timetables will be available closer to the time of the exams.
Year 11 classes will not run during Year 11 exam times. Year 12 classes will not run during Year 12 exam times.

If you have any questions regarding this new process please contact me on 5132 3800 or cropper.bernadette.b@edumail.vic.gov.au

Bernadette Cropper
VCE COORDINATOR
Parent Forum

Unpacking Career Options for young people on the Autism Spectrum

This one day forum is presented to you by the Career Education Association of Victoria (CEAV) and Melton City Council, funded by the Department of Education and Training. The forum is open to all parents and carers of children on the Autism Spectrum and features:

- Keynote speaker – Chris Vanney ‘I Can Network’
- Transition planning – Jolie Bailey, YOCO
- Careers that work
- Meaningful job opportunities and experiences
- Career planning tools

Cost: FREE
Date: February 18, 2016
Time: Registration opens from 9:00am – 9:30am
Forum and Workshops: 9:30am – 2:30pm
Location: WestWaters Hotel and Entertainment Complex
In the Ballroom
10-20 Lake Street
Cobden, Victoria 3295

To register for this FREE event use the following URL: www.ceav.vic.edu.au/ParentForum. Places are limited. Contact Leah Pappas or Amelia McCulloch on 9810 6400 or email projectofficer@ceav.vic.edu.au.

Parent Webinar

Where are all the jobs going to be in 2025?

Cost: FREE
Date: April 19, 2016
Time: 7-8pm

What will you need:
- Headphones
- Access to a computer with internet

Presented by
Ivan Neville
Department of Employment
Branch Manager
Labour Market Research and Analysis Branch

Hurry places limited!

This free webinar is offered by the Career Education Association of Victoria (CEAV) to support parents in their important role of primary advisor to their children.

Don’t miss this fantastic opportunity to hear from Federal Department of Employment Ivan Neville discuss:
- Top Growth Industries
- Employer skill needs
- Employment growth areas

Ivan Neville is currently the Branch Manager of Labour Market Research and Analysis Branch and has responsibility for the analysis of the contemporary Australian labour market and the identification of the current and future demand for skills.

Register today: www.ceav.vic.edu.au/catalogue/162/6023

Contact Leah Pappas or Amelia McCulloch on 9810 6400 or email projectofficer@ceav.vic.edu.au.
Recruiting Now

Please email 424.sqn@aafc.org.au to register your interest.

EDUCATES  CHALLENGES  EXCITES

DO YOU WANT TO:
• Go on an Adventure?
• Learn to Fly?
• Learn about the Air Force?
• Become a Leader?
• Make Great friends?

Leadership
confidence & mateship

AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

Friday Afternoons
1.20pm till 4.30pm

SisterCities Festival
FREE ENTRY
CELEBRATING CHINESE AND JAPANESE CULTURE
FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2016
LATROBE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
GREY STREET, TRARALGON 6PM–10PM

• Australia’s Got Talent finalist ‘George & Norton’
• Japanese Drumming
• Chinese Lion Dancing
• Authentic Food and Drink
• Sake Bar
• Ribbon Dance
• Japanese and Chinese Film

• Anime and Pop Culture Movies
• Cosplay Dress Up Competition
• Manga and Anime Drawing Competition
• Beijing Opera
• Koto Performance
• Chinese Erhu Performance

JAPAN TAKASAGO  CHINA TAIZHOU