



PARENT BULLETIN

10th February 2012

COMING EVENTS

Thursday, 16 th February.....	Year 10 Team Building Day
Thursday, 23 rd February.....	College Swimming Sports
Monday, 19 th March – 30 th March.....	Yr 10 Work Experience
Friday, 30 th MarchLast Day Term 1
Monday, 16 th April.....	Term 2 commences

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:	8.00 am – 4.00 pm
SCHOOL HOURS:	8.25 am – 2.50 pm students are supervised between 8.10 am and 3.00 pm



CAMPUS PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

From our perspective it has been a very smooth start to the year; a credit to the staff, students and their families. I have asked a few of the Year 7 students how school has been so far and the general response: FUN! I hope they are still saying that at the end of the year.

At the end of last year teachers and families met to talk about all the factors that might have an impact on students when they are at school. In a few weeks time you will be contacted by one of the teachers you met just to see how things are going. As a general rule if you have some concern it is probably a good idea that you contact this person as a first step and then they can put you in touch with the most appropriate member of staff. Failing that, call the school and ask to speak to your child’s year level team leader or one of the school’s welfare support staff.

This year the newsletters will be sent out fortnightly rather than weekly and will be emailed directly to families. If you have not included your email address on the enrolment form can you please contact the office and give them this information. If you would still like to get a printed copy this can be collected by your student from the general office at the end of the day on Friday.

We hope that 2012 will be a successful year for all members of the Kurnai College Learning Community. We are committed to working closely with all families to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students and encourage you to play an active role in your child’s schooling.

Geoff Block
CAMPUS PRINCIPAL

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE -

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of **Term 1 (1 February 2012)** which is the first day for

teaching staff) and Term 3 (16 July 2012).

The EMA application must be **submitted to the school by 29 February 2012** for the first instalment and 3 August 2012 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of \$235 for primary students and **\$470 for secondary students** and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 years in 2012 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

SECOND HAND BOOK & UNIFORM SALE PROCEEDS

Please contact the school to check whether there are any proceeds from the sale of second hand books and uniform.

YEAR 10

We have had a really good start to the year, all students have settled well into their classes.

Students undertaking a Year 11 subject will attend the Precinct Campus period 5 on Monday and Friday and periods 1 and 2 on Tuesday.

On Thursday 16th February we will be having a Team Building day at Yallourn North pool. Money and permission forms are due back.

The process for determining Year 10 student leaders is now underway. Students interested in these positions can pick up an application form from the Year 10 office.

All Year 10 students will be undertaking a Work Experience placement for 2 weeks from 19th to 30th March. Students are in the process of arranging placements at school. Details will be sent home shortly.

NOTE FROM THE NURSE – BEING SUNSMART!

There is huge variability in ultraviolet (UV) radiation levels across Australia. In Victoria from September to April, when average UV levels are 3 and above sun protection is required. At this level, the UV radiation is strong enough to damage the skin and eyes.

When the UV Index reaches 3 and above, using a combination of five steps to protect against sun damage is recommended:

1. [Slip on some sun-protective clothing](#) that covers as much skin as possible.
2. [Slop on SPF30+ sunscreen](#) – make sure it is broad spectrum and water resistant. Apply 20 minutes before you go outdoors and reapply every two hours.
3. [Slap on a hat](#) that protects your face, head, neck and ears.
4. [Seek shade](#).
5. [Slide on some sunglasses](#) – make sure they meet Australian Standards.

People with naturally very dark skin (usually [skin type 5 or 6](#)) still need to take care in the sun even though they rarely, if ever, get sunburnt.

The larger amount of melanin in very dark skin provides natural protection from ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This means the risk of skin cancer is lower; however skin cancers that do occur are often detected at a later, more dangerous, stage.

How much sun is enough?

UV radiation in sunlight is the best form of vitamin D for your body. We all need vitamin D to develop strong healthy bones. Fair skinned people can get enough vitamin D in summer from a few minutes of sunlight on their face, arms and hands before 10 am or after 3 pm on most days of the week.

People with [naturally very dark skin](#) require up to three times more UV exposure as the melanin in their skin affects UV penetration to make vitamin D.

More information can be found at http://www.sunsmart.com.au/sun_protection/

School Council Elections

School Council notice of Election and call for Nominations will begin on Monday 20th February. 4 Parent member positions (3 positions of 2 years and 1 position of 1 year), and 2 DEECD employee member positions will be vacant. Nomination forms can be obtained from the office of each campus and must be lodged back at the school by 4.00pm on Monday 27th February. If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school. Further reading and timeline dates are available within this newsletter.

Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2012

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information

