



PARENT BULLETIN

24th February 2012

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 29 th February.....	EMA Applications close
Thursday, 1 st March.....	Yr 10 Golf
Tuesday, 6 th March.....	Yr 7 & 10 Immunisations
Monday, 12 th March.....	Labour Day (No School)
Monday, 19 th March – 30 th March.....	Yr 10 Work Experience
Friday, 23 rd March.....	Yr 9 HPV Camp
Friday, 30 th March.....	.Last 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,

I’m not sure what reports you received from your children after the Kurnai House Swimming Sports yesterday but from the perspective of the teachers and the staff at Moe pool it was a great day. Attendance was high and the atmosphere at the pool created by students from all Kurnai campuses, most of them dressed up in their house colours was exciting.

Whether as participants or supporters, students were enthusiastically involved in the different events and activities during the day. While I am sure the weather helped to add to the overall mood of the day, the pool staff commented on the behaviour of the students (and staff) and the courtesy they received from them. It was a great advertisement for Kurnai College.

Oh, in case you wondered, congratulations to Forsyth team for its narrow win over the mighty Siddle, with Freeman and Thorpe in third and fourth.

A similar reflection on our school in very different circumstances came in comments from the Salvation Army who wanted us to pass on their thanks for the behaviour of students last week. I am sure those of you who pick up your students at the end of the day will remember the very big funeral that took place last week. The end of the funeral and the end of the school day coincided but the Salvation Army were very happy with the respectful manner in which the students conducted themselves, especially when the hearse was moving away from the Salvation Army hall.

A reminder that nominations for the parent representative positions on the **School Council close at 4:00 pm on Monday 27th February**. If you want to be involved in your child’s education and play an active role in the direction which this College takes then being a member of the School Council is a great way to do this.

Thanks to Di Billingsley and her team for the work they did in organising the Year 7 BBQ. It was a good chance to meet new parents and to talk with them about their hopes for their children. I would like to reinforce the message that was given by Di; that if you have questions or concerns raise them with us quickly rather than stewing over them. It would also be nice that if you think teachers or the school are doing some things right that you let us know about that,too.

Finally can you all be aware that students need to be at school **no later than 8:25 am each morning**. There are a few students who regularly turn up at least 10-15 minutes late. This interferes with their own learning and the learning of other students because they come into class late, forcing the teacher to repeat the first part of the lesson for them. If this continues to be a problem those responsible will be making up time at lunchtime or after school. Given that the most frequent excuse for lateness is sleeping in can parents please make sure that students are leaving home with plenty of time to get to school on time.

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.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

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.

YEAR 9

Recently all the Year 9's walked down to the Immigration Park (Kernot Hall) for lunch. We have been learning about immigration and people movement in our Humanities and Team Time classes this term. This was a great way to get all of the Year 9's together and out of the school to learn and have some fun. We ate our lunch and the provided fruit then got together in small groups to complete the worksheets we were given about the immigration wall. It was great to take our learning outside of the school grounds for something a bit different.

Kiowa Scott-Hurley (Year 9)

PBS STUDENT LEADERS

The SRC has a new name and a new energetic group of students to ensure students' voices are heard at the Morwell Campus. Students who were interested in being PBS student leaders submitted applications and had to participate in an interview with year level team leaders and the program facilitators. The following students were successful and will represent their year level in 2012:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Katie Foster	Jade Smith	Amy Radford	James Morris (School Captain)
Jessica McKean	Caiden Gill	Kiowa Scott-Hurley	Sara Mayo (School Captain)
Brooklyn Bennett	Emma Darling	Lochlan Boyes	Zac Smith (Vice-Captain)
Jamison Miller -Mowat	Caitlan Sheridan	Luke Cassidy	Sheeny Whadcoat (Vice-Captain)

Those that were not successful in getting a place on the program will be offered other leadership opportunities in their year levels and across the campus.

The new leaders were presented with their Student Leader badges by Mr Rodaughan at a recent school assembly.

The PBS student leaders had their first meeting this week to plan for the year ahead. Many ideas were discussed including the group's first fundraiser of the year. There will be an out of uniform and crazy hair day being held soon to help raise money for Mrs Thompson who is shaving her head for 'Shave for a Cure'. There will be prizes for the craziest hair in each year level. More details will be in later newsletters and student bulletins.

Anyone with ideas or feedback for the PBS student leaders can see their year level representatives, Mrs Carder or Ms Davis.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT ((PBS)

Every week teachers are asked to consider which students have demonstrated stand-out behaviour in the area of our school pillars – Relationships, Engagement, Work Ethic and Excellence. A postcard is sent home to let families know about their student’s positive behaviour.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving a postcard recognising their achievements and demonstrating one of our four pillars:

Relationships	Work Ethic	Excellence	Engagement
Amy Radford	Jordyn Presley	Nathan Foley	Andrew Lethaby
Lydia Marino	Brooklyn Bennett	Ifti Narawi	Cameron Skinner
Jacodi Dunstan	Rachael Rigby	Emily McKean	Claudia Logiodice
Mitch Correa	Andrew Heyden	Luke Cassidy	James Goodwin
Jamie Mareska	Sarah Darling	Zack Wright	
	Angela Knersch	Allison Newton	
	Jason Ferguson		

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.

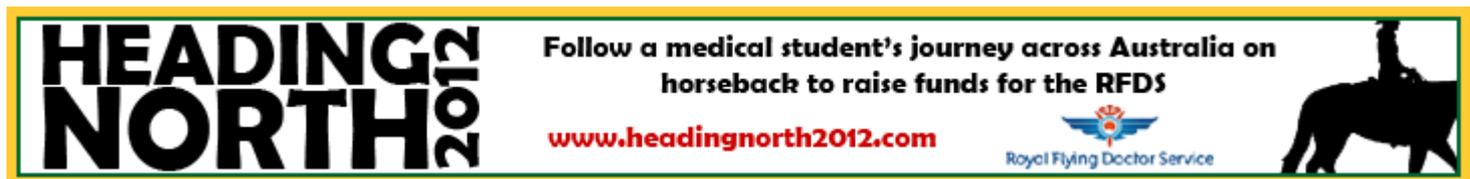
Remember

- 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

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

My name is Sam Alexander and I am a past student of Kurnai College. I am undertaking this year a charity horseback ride, riding solo across the east coast of Australia for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. I am currently preparing to leave on the year long journey on the 25th of February.



ANGLICARE PARENTZONE NEWSLETTER.

This newsletter is full of parenting programs, professional programs and support services with the Gippsland region and beyond. The newsletter will be available from the Anglicare Victoria website each term. You will find the current newsletter at: <http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/>

Parentzone have a variety of programs on offer for Term 1.

- Parenting and Play program in Morwell.
- Confident Parent, Confident Children program in Morwell. Trafalgar and Bairnsdale.
- Signposts for Building Better Behaviour will be held in Warragul.
- MyTime for Grandparents will commence in February in Morwell.

See relevant local government area for full program details.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADET RECRUITMENT NIGHT

At 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm on **Tuesday 6th March** the Australian Army Cadets, Newborough (304 Army Cadet Unit) are having a recruitment night where people are welcome to come along for the night to see what we do at cadets.

Address: 304 Army Cadet Unit, 39 Construction Squadron, Monash Road, Newborough

Phone (03) 5127 6777; ask for cadets (only Tuesday nights) Email: 204acu@cadet.net.gov.au