



Kurnai College

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

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College Newsletter

Term 4, 2023 · 18 Dec 2023

Work Ethic, Engagement, Relationships, Excellence

Kurnai College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we live and work, of the Braiakaulung people of the Gunaikurnai nation and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future.

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Message from College Principal

Anthony Rodaughan



G 'day everyone,

I thought that the end of the year involved a bit of winding down but it has been all go this week at Kurnai College.

I have just got back from our annual college day at Gumbuya World and what a fantastic way to finish off the year. Our students and staff love this day and have a chance to have fun together and to really enjoy a day out.

Our HeadStart Program has been in full swing and it has been great meeting next year's Year 7's as they go through their paces during their three day Orientation Program.

Our VCE results are out and we congratulate all the students who successfully finished their Year 12, either as a VCE student or a VM student. Further study, training or the world of work awaits these students and we know they will acquit themselves well no matter what their pathway is. Special congratulations go to Chloe Toull our VCE dux for 2023.

Like the end of every year, there are goodbyes to be had and welcomes to extend. It is always a mixture of sadness and anticipation as we bid our senior students goodbye. Similarly, we bid farewell to some of our staff members. In particular, I would like to mention the many years of outstanding service that Geoff Block has contributed to Kurnai College. Geoff leaves us having worked at all campuses and done most jobs across our college. Geoff's special love is interacting with the students and he is a firm favourite with the students in his care. For his extraordinary contribution to the learning and wellbeing of so many Kurnai kids, I say on their behalf, "...thank you Blocky!"

This year we conducted our college review of the last Strategic Plan. This plan was derailed by Covid but still achieved some of its original goals. Our new plan sees us setting off again on an ambitious improvement agenda and we will start the new year off with plenty to do.

We have also made significant progress on our College Reconciliation Action Plan or RAP- Ngalu Waru Dardee: *Together we are stronger*. This involves all campuses and it is pleasing to see the real difference the RAP is making.

At the time of writing, we are still short of four to five teachers for 2024 and not getting very much interest in the vacancies that we have posted. This is a concern and across the state, this is a familiar story. Let us hope we can build our college team up so we can do the great work that we do every day for the kids in our care.

Have a great and safe festive season everyone.

We look forward to seeing you back at Kurnai in the new year!

Anthony Rodaughan
College Principal

Excellence 'We do the best we can do'

Relationships 'We value and respect each other'

Work Ethic 'We are committed to working hard'

Engagement 'We actively participate in our own learning'





Kurnai College

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College News

Kurnai College 2023 Awards Ceremony



On Friday, 15 December, we held our 2023 Kurnai College Awards Ceremony.

Congratulations to our award winners from across the college, for your outstanding achievements this year.

Thank you to our Community sponsors who generously supported us in celebrating our students' achievements. Your contributions have made a significant difference in recognizing and encouraging the hard work and dedication of our students.

Thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate this special day with us.

Photos from the day can be found on our [Kurnai College Facebook Page](#).

Gumbuya World Excursion



Last Wednesday, 13 December, students from across the College spent the day at Gumbuya World to celebrate the end of the school year. It was a fantastic day full of swimming, waterslides and sunshine.

Thank you to everyone who helped out and made this such a day a special day for our students.

Language Program Graduation



Congratulations to the students who graduated from the International Students Language Program with a special lunch.

Each student was presented with their Graduation Certificate by program leader Yin Yan Ping. Lunch was a feast with all students bringing in lovely home cooked Asian dishes.



Kurnai College

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Dates to Remember

2023 Important Dates	
Monday 18th - Wednesday 20th December 2023	No scheduled classes – environmental duties Any students attending will be assisting staff with school clean up <i>No buses will be running.</i>
Tuesday 19th December	Campus Offices Close 12 noon
2024 Important Dates	
Thursday 25th January	Campus Offices Open - 10.00am - 2.00pm
Monday 29th January	<i>SCHOOL CLOSED:</i> Student Free Day Campus Offices Open 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday 30th January	<i>Term 1 Classes commence</i>
Thursday 8th February	Churchill Campus School Photos
Wednesday 14th February	Morwell Campus School Photos
Thursday 15th February	College Swimming Trials
Monday 26th February	University Campus School Photos
Tuesday 27th February	College Athletics
Monday 26th - Friday 1 March	Churchill Year 8 Karoonda Park Camp
Monday 11th March	<i>SCHOOL CLOSED</i> - Labour Day
Wednesday 27th March	Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30 - 7.00pm
Thursday 28th March	Parent Teacher Conversations 10.00am - 1.00pm <i>End of Term 1</i>
Friday 29th March	Good Friday

Monday 15th April

Term 2 commences

School Information

All our contact information can be found on our website at <http://kurnai.co/contact>

School Buses

The school bus service will continue to operate as normal until Monday 18th December.

2024 Start of Year Office Hours

Campus offices will be open for enquiries on:

- Thursday 25th January 2024 10.00am to 2:00pm
- Monday 29th January 2024 1:30pm to 4:00pm

Office hours will be back to normal on Tuesday 30th January - 8.00am - 4.00pm.

Mobile Phones in Schools

A reminder that the Department of Education has in place a mobile phone ban that requires students who bring mobile phones to school to have them switched off and securely put away during school hours.

The department is requiring all schools to ensure this ban is in place and enforced from the start of the 2024 school year.

The ban applies equally to all government schools right across the state.

This helps ensure that school is a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions and disruptions.

By ensuring mobile phones are kept away at recess and lunch times, students can interact with each other face-to-face, without the distractions and social pressures that mobile phones can cause.

I ask for the support of all our families, staff and students in continuing to support the implementation of this policy in our school.

Further information

Exceptions: For a small number of students with particular health needs, an exception to the policy may be granted. Please contact your campus Principal if you would like to discuss this.

Emergencies: In the event of an emergency or if you need to immediately contact your child, I ask that families contact the school office who will pass on a message as required.

School mobile phone policy: A copy of our school's local mobile phone policy, which implements the government's mobile policy in line with our local context, is available [here](#).

Parent support: The Mobile Phones in Schools [webpage](#) provides links to resources for families to help them balance their children's time using mobile phones.

If you have further questions, please contact your campus administration office.



Key Contacts

2024

Churchill Campus



Reece Malcolmson
Churchill Campus Principal



Darren Campbell
Year 9 Team Leader



Erin Gruis
Year 7 Team Leader



Todd Miller
Year 10 Team Leader



Matt Suter
Year 8 Team Leader

Morwell Campus



Dan Swallow
Morwell Campus Principal



Daniel Murphy

Assistant Principal / Year 7 & 8
Team Leader

Ross Johnson
Year 9 Team Leader

Michael Eastham
VCE Year 12 Team Leader



Lindy Gumpold
VCE Year 11 Team Leader

University Campus



Sheryl Tangi
Year 10 Team Leader



Matt Jobling
University Campus Principal



Amanda Vosper
VCE VM Team Leader



If you require to contact any of our staff, their contact details can be found

<http://kurnai.co/key-contacts>