

Kurunjang Secondary College

Parent Newsletter



Website: www.kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au

Leaders in a Learning Community
12 August 2008

COMMUNITY SERVICE



I had the great honour of nominating Christine Warke, one of our Integration Aides and Publicity Officer for an *Above and Beyond Community Award*. Chris was nominated for her tireless services to students and the tremendous support she gives them. Chris has developed many community relationships which have benefited Kurunjang

students. Many have received scholarships and placements in programs like *Handbrake Turn*, which have supported their lives and their endeavours. Chris gives of her time voluntarily above what is required in her job description, whether it is in the evening, on weekends or during holidays.

Chris also supports her colleagues above and beyond. Chris in her humility said, "You can only help people that are doing things and our teachers are very busy people so it is easy to help."

Christine Warke is a wonderful example for all staff and students alike as she lives her values.

We were all proud of Chris as she received her award from Deputy Prime Minister, Julia Gillard last Thursday

Peter Blunden
Principal

ENVIRONMENT and CITIZENSHIP

One of the strongly held beliefs of Kurunjang Secondary College is that we can foster a sense of citizenship in our students. Citizenship and an active participation in the life of the College and the community is evident in our student leadership programs, the Student Representative Council, the community learning and engagement in the Beyond Four Walls program and in the encouragement of positive relationships between students through approaches such as Tribes. There are always areas we can improve to make Kurunjang and the world a better place.

A major element of modern citizenship is accepting a stewardship of the environment. This can be demonstrated in a number of ways; all citizens are recycling and reducing rubbish. We will be undertaking development of the College environment with plantings which will offset carbon emissions. Rainwater tanks, solar efficiencies and other technologies can help the environment. Kurunjang has installed rainwater tanks and is seeking government grants for solar power. There are even more basic issues to address.

At the start of this semester Kurunjang reintroduced yard duty as a form of Community Service.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 18 August: Performance – Cheap Thrills
Tuesday 19 August: Course, Confirmation Day 1pm-8pm More information below.
Friday 22 August: Year 9 Do The Crime Do The Time Excursion
Friday 22 August: Year 11 Fit to Drive Period 1- 4
Friday 22 August: Year 10 Textile Excursion
Monday 25 – Tuesday 26 August: City Project Year 9 Homegroups C,E,F
Thursday 28 – Friday August: City Project Year 9 Homegroups A,B,D,G
Wednesday 27 August Careers Expo at Melton Shire Hall

COURSE INFORMATION NIGHTS

Tuesday, 12 August Elective choices for all Year 8 and 9 students should have been returned to Mr. Davies and Mr. Milligan If they have not been returned please do so as soon as possible.

Tuesday, 19 August. Course Confirmation Day 1 pm -8 pm. No classes for Year 10 students. Students and their parents attend an interview with their child's Course counsellor to confirm course planning for 2009.

Yard duty is a common practice in most secondary colleges in Victoria. Community service can include any work which will improve life for the College community or the wider community. Students with disabilities, who are unable to do yard duty, will be offered alternative work as community service. We believe everyone has a responsibility to make Kurunjang a better place, continually striving for improvement.

The state of the yard has been a concern to many, and relying on every student to put every paper in a bin has proven to be unsatisfactory. Papers are blown around the yard and crows often disturb the rubbish from the bins.

Four students work as a team to clear the yard of rubbish, and tidy their environment. They are given gloves and equipment including brooms, rakes, shovels and buckets. They need to work well as a team to do the job effectively. If the job is done satisfactorily students are offered a reward at the end.

Over the term, four students in Years 7 & 8 will be rostered on for yard work during the afternoon, which means that most students will do duty two, or at most three, times across the semester.

Citizenship means participation. We are proud of the students who have given their time to improve the College.

Gordon Harvey
Assistant Principal

COURSE INFORMATION NIGHTS

On Tuesday night Kurunjang Secondary College held our Course Expo for all Year 8 and Year 9 students and parents. There were 200 people in attendance. It was a very informative evening. Teachers from many curriculum areas were in attendance to help explain the courses to both students and parents. Every family received their course information booklet. If you were unable to attend the evening, your child was given their course information booklet in their homegroup on Wednesday morning.

If you have not seen the booklet: **Please ask your child for their booklet and elective sheets.**

HEALTHY LIVING CONFERENCE

On Thursday 31 July, 12 Year 10 students participated in a Healthy Living Conference, organized by Melton Shire, Youth Services. The day started with a guest speaker, Chris Robertson, who had been an elite swimmer and is now a doctor. He talked about setting goals and perseverance and gave some great examples of how to achieve goals in life. There was then a choice of workshops, Nutrition and Body Image, Harm Minimization, Stress Management and Sexual Health, which provided valuable information to the students. Youth Services encourage youth participation in the Shire and this was another example where students learnt valuable information to pass on to their friends. The students who participated were Chelsea Thorpe, Shaygne Hamilton, Samantha Vella, Louisa Zambelli, Craig McSwain, Stephanie Pitt, David Edwards, Scott Hampton, Cherie Meldrum, Kristen Catalano, Hayley Johnstone and Lauren Ould.

MYAN PRESENTATION

Following the 2 day Mind Matters training, that some of our students attended, Jacinta Rosewarne and Stephanie Pitt were asked to present a summary of the program to the Melton Youth Advisory Network. Adults from many of the youth support services in the Melton Shire, attended these meetings and it is a great opportunity for some of our students to be a part of this. The students started with a warm up activity where they had the adults in fits of laughter trying to catch and throw balls around the circle. The two girls then gave a comprehensive run down on what the program was about and managed to answer extra questions. I would also like to thank Alan Fawns and his Yr 10 Home Economics class for the magnificent lunch provided on the day. It certainly showcased what some of our students are capable of.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

If you know that your child will be absent for the day please notify the College by ringing the Attendance Officer on **9747 5987**. If the phone is unattended, please leave a message on the voicemail. Please state the name of the student, their homegroup and the reason for the absence in a clear voice.

FORMULA 1 CHALLENGE



Sunday 10th August at Victoria University at Footscray a team of Kurunjang Secondary College students know as 'Team Knightriders' race their formula 1 cars against the best in Victoria and missed out on 1st place by only 67/1000ths of a seconds.



SUBSCRIBE TO THE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

If you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email, simply send an email to this address, newsletter-request@kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au The body of the message need only contain the word **subscribe**

UNIFORM SHOP

NEW TIMES

Dobson's Uniform Shop 9746 0062

Trading Hours as at 12/6/2008

Tuesday: 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Thursday: 3.00 pm - 5.30 pm