

Kurunjang Secondary College

Parent Newsletter

Website: www.kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au



Leaders in a Learning
Community

11th February, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The staff at Kurunjang spent the first three days of the school year planning their lessons and learning about how to further engage and motivate the students. All of the teachers will be working together to improve the learning environment so that each student achieves at their possible best. The leaders of Junior School and Senior School went through all the processes and policies that will be used this year to help gain a consistent and fair approach to student management and wellbeing. The importance of students arriving on time and ready for work has been a focus in every classroom.

The students have started the new school year with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Students have had their first assembly to have some of the changes to our processes explained to them as well as reminding them of others. These processes are:

- No lunchtime passes to leave the school
- Full school uniform
- Arriving on time to homegroup and to each class
- Be prepared for work by having the right equipment and completing the homework.
- 90% Attendance in each class.

Thank you to all the families who have supported the college, as this has made Kurunjang a safe learning environment for everyone.

The recent bushfires across the state have impacted on many families in our school. Staff and students have rallied together to organize fundraising activities to help support the people affected by this tragedy. A sausage sizzle and a dance off competition will occur in the coming days. We are fortunate to be in a community that has a culture of care and support for others.

TALKING TO YOUR SCHOOL

The college is aware that there will always be times when families will need to speak to staff at the college about issues concerning their children. It is expected that each person upholds the college values of positive attitude, attentive listening, appreciation and mutual respect so that an agreed outcome is achieved by working in partnership. This process is outlined in the "Talking to your school" document which can be accessed on the College website.

COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations for College Council have started. If you would like to become involved in our college council, please read the attached information and come and see the General Office for a nomination form.

The timeline for elections is as follows:

- Notice of election and call for nominations: Monday 16 February
- Closing date for nominations: Monday 23 February.
- Elections will only occur if there are more nominations than vacancies.
- List of candidates and nominators will be displayed: Wednesday 25 February
- Close of ballot: Tuesday, 10 March
- Vote Count: Friday 13 March
- Declaration of ballot: Monday 16 March

The new College Council will meet on Thursday 19 March.

BEAUTIFICATION OF THE SCHOOL

Many of our students and staff have been discussing the importance of recycling and conserving our water and energy. The students and staff would like to start a "Go Green Team" where these issues will be discussed and acted upon. Our first meeting is this week and we are excited to work together with the students on such important issues. The team will be looking at ways of cleaning up the school and the best use of the bin system so that materials can be recycled. This is the start of many initiatives that the Student Voice program will be involved in over the year.

If you have any additional ideas or support that you can give the team, they would be welcomed.

IMPROVING STUDENT OUTCOMES

There will be a strong literacy and numeracy focus in every classroom for every student across the school. The new leadership team has been created to help address these goals, ultimately to improve student outcomes and future options. Many of our staff have been trained as coaches and further training will be given to other staff. Sue Phillips, our literacy coach is leading the implementation of the Carol Chistensen program across all of year 7. All year 7 students have been tested on their skills and placed in small groups to

help develop their literacy. Caroline Mazurkiewicz, our numeracy coach will be working with the Mathematics teachers. The teaching staff will be working in teams over the year to learn the most productive way to engage and challenge each student. Working together will make a difference! I am very proud of the positive and motivated response from staff in implementing these learning teams.

Welcome To New Staff

There has been several new staff that have started the New Year at Kurunjang Secondary College.

The Kurunjang Secondary College community welcomes:

Wren Amos in Health and Physical Education

Esilio Benedetti in Mathematics and Science

Daniella Lozar in Textiles and Food Technology

Scott McDowell in Mathematics and Science

Klate McFarlane in Science and English and Leading Teacher in TRIBES

Emma Patchett in Home Economics and Food Technology

James Slade in Mathematics and Science

Tina Walkeden in Humanities and Leading Teacher in Teaching Skills

Sandra Eglezos
Principal

BUSHFIRE RELIEF

Donations of non-perishable food items

This is an urgent request for practical no-perishable food items, teenagers and children clothing, personal toiletries and soft toys to be donated to the school to support the bushfire victims. These will be sent to the relevant food bank to support the families of the Bushfire survivors.

A staff member will be delivering all items direct to the relief centre this weekend.

BUSHFIRE RELIEF BBQ – Sausage Sizzle – Lunchtime- Thursday 12 February in Rose Garden

In support of the Relief, the school will run a sausage in the Rose Garden on Thursday. All monies received will go directly to the families affected by bushfires.

A sausage, onion, bread and can of drink will be available for a \$2 donation (minimum). Icy poles 50c. Please support this event, as the recent bushfire have touched all of us in some way.

Any cash donation may also be made at the General Office – a tax deductible receipt will be issued for all donations received.

Could you also notify the school, if any of your children require counselling services as a result of the bushfires?

All enquires should be made to Glenda Nielson-Welfare Co-Coordinator- Kurunjang Secondary College

We would like to thank **Tasman Meats** in High Street Melton for their continual support in supply us meat for fundraising actives and school activities; Morgan IGA for drinks again at discount prices; Bakers Delight for free bread and Mc Donald's for supplying the drink containers. We would also like thank our school canteen- Metropolitan Canteen for their donates of cakes and Zooper Doopers

We would ask that school community can support these businesses in Melton.

SCHOOL NURSE

Welcome to all New Year 7 Parents. Toward the end of Term One, all parents and cares are invited to attend an information evening titled "Tips on Parenting Teens" which will be held at school. Guest speaker from Melton Reconnect team and our school nurse Wendy will facilitate the session, and hope to provide tips, answer questions and provide reassurance. Please watch the newsletter for a final date

Wendy
School Nurse

PHOTOS DAY

College photographs will be taken on **Monday 2 March**. All students and staff will be photographed to produce class photos and Kurunjang College identity cards. All students require an identity card for photocopying, printing and library purposes.

Families will be able to purchase a variety of portrait packages. A group package for \$25.00 includes a composite class photo, 3 large, 3 medium, and 4 small ID size photos a calendar and bookmark. A mounted portraits and group photos can be purchased individually.

Note there is a family discount. If you have **more than two** children photographed, you need pay only for two. Full details and instructions are on the order package.

Order packages with full information will be given to students in the week prior to Monday March 2. Please ask your child in that week to ensure you receive the order package. All payments are made directly to Arthur Reed Photos and not to the College. Payment on the day

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**

TRIBES

We are fortunate at Kurunjang Secondary College. A consistent approach has been adopted to reinforce excellence in teaching & learning and a positive classroom environment. Almost all teachers at the school have received training in the *Tribes* process, which is a practical guide in how to help young people learn how to learn; both as individuals and as part of a learning community. I've just joined the College this year and I'm looking forward to talking with parents, students and teachers about Tribes and how it can help all of us to help each other.

Klate McFarlane

Tribes Classroom Environment



I'd like to introduce *Reflection*, the pelican with a "bird's eye view" of our activities. Reflection helps us to understand how we are learning together, and how much we are achieving.

Tribes is about learning, but it's mostly about people. It's about listening to people around us and showing respect and appreciation for them. It's also about giving each person the opportunity to participate in their own way. Tribes is about learning as a community

How to Get the Best use of Your Student's Planner

By now, every student at the College should have received a Student Planner. It is expected that your child bring their planner to school each day, and place it on their desk at the beginning of every class.

Effective Planner usage is a skill that is an essential ingredient to a successful study program. As such, time and effort must be devoted to developing it as a habit. Following are some tried and proven "musts" for efficient planner usage:

- Students and their planners must be inseparable partners at school, and be brought home each night.

- In every class, all work set, and the date that it is due should be recorded. This must be done immediately their teacher tells them; don't wait until afterwards, it's too easy to forget.
- Homework should also be recording on the Year Planner contained in their planners
- After school, before they go home, students should look at the homework that has been recorded during the day for each subject and make sure that they take home the required equipment and books to complete that homework. It is important to take extra care ensuring this is done on Friday nights before the weekend.
- If they haven't a great deal of homework to do on a particular night, they should look ahead in the planner for what is coming up, and make an early start, especially on assignments. They may start revising for an upcoming test, do extra study to add depth to their understanding, or even just re-read their notes for the various subjects that they studies that day.
- Every weekend, they should spend about 15 minutes planning their upcoming week in the "Priorities / Due In" and "Things to do" sections. Also, on individual days for the coming week, highlight work that is due in. This puts them in control and on top of what is required.
- When they have assignments, essays or tests coming up, they should look in the Index and the "Breakup of Focuses" for the focus that will help their efforts. The focuses will cover most of their needs and help develop their study skills.

In addition the Student Planner is a critical component in maintaining communication between yourself and your son / daughter's teachers. We also ask that you sign your child's planner at the end of each week. This will assist, not only in ensuring that your child is using their Student Planner effectively, but will enable you to monitor their progress towards maintaining the 4As.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your son / daughter's progress, please do not hesitate to contact his / her Year Level Co-ordinator or Homegroup Teacher.

"The harder you work the more luck you have." Anon

MK HOMEWORK CLUB

Free

For English as a Second Language Secondary Students in the Melton area

Tuesday 17th February 2009 3.30 – 5.30 pm
The Library Melton Secondary College

Thursday 12th February 2009 3.30 – 5.30 pm
M Building Kurunjang Secondary College

Eva Dudkiewicz
Kurunjang Secondary College
Phone 743 9211

KURUNJANG SECONDARY COLLEGE CALENDER

February 2009						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2 School Resumes	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Bushfire Relief BBQ Fundraiser	13	14	15
16 Call for nominations For school council	17 Senior School BBQ	18	19 College Council Meeting	20	21	22
23 Year 7 Camps Closing date for nominations for school council	24 Year 7 Camps	25 Year 7 Camps Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp	26 Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp	27 Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp	28	
March 2009						
						1
2 College Photos	3	4	5 Year 9 Advance Excursion	6	7	8
9 Labour Day Holiday	10 Close of ballot School council	11	12 Yr 9 Visiting Performance	13 Vote Count: School council	14	15
16 Declaration of ballot School Council	17	18	19 Year 12 Outdoor Ed. Camp College Council	20 Year 12 Outdoor Ed Camp	21	22
23	24 Parent Teacher Interviews 4- 7:30 pm	25	26 Yr 9 Advance Camp	27 Yr 9 Advance Camp	28	29
30 Yr 7 & 10 Immunisations						

YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

The Kurunjang Secondary College Council is calling for nominations for parent, Department of Education and Training Employees (DE&T) and community representatives. Nomination Forms and information about council are available from the General Office or can be posted on request.

Please take note of the eligibility criteria for all categories provided on the nomination forms. These are summarised on nomination forms and ballot papers.

VACANCIES EXIST IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES

- 3 Parent Representatives
- 2 Department of Education and Training Employees

Council is particularly interested in recruiting a member of our community with business, public sector, higher education or industry training experience

School Council Elections 2009

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?

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 employed 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.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

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 employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled

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.

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.