

Kurunjang Secondary College

Parent Newsletter



Website: www.kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au

23 January 2009

Parents please note

All students are required to return to school on Monday 2 February commencing at 8.45am

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is with a great deal of pride that I begin the position of Acting Principal of Kurunjang Secondary College. I welcome parents and guardians to come and introduce themselves to me and have a chat about the school and their children. I look forward to developing positive relationships with the Kurunjang community and working with them to give each student a positive future.

Welcome to all the new students and their families to our college. I am confident that the year 7 students and other new students will gain a sense of our values as we start to develop caring and trusting relationships with them. We encourage parents and guardians to visit the school and discuss their child's future aspirations as well as ask questions. We look forward to seeing families become formally involved in Parent Association and College Council. Parent participation and feedback helps improve the connectedness and achievements of the students and is an area that Kurunjang Secondary College would like to expand.

During the past few weeks, I have been at the school working with the new leadership team and the office staff as we prepare for a very positive and productive start to 2009. I would like to thank the leadership and work of the two Assistant Principals, Sue Binger and Gordon Harvey and Business Manager, Leonie Gray who have given me insight to the school and the wonderful work that has started at the school, to help improve student outcomes. I have gained a sense of determination that the college will make a significant positive difference to the students in the Melton community.

It is my hope that we build upon the work of the former Principal Peter Blunden, working together to further develop and enhance the total educational programs, so that we help prepare our students for a future that, no doubt will continue to bring both rapid change and a wealth of opportunities. Our desire to achieve recognition as leaders in a learning community will provide the basis and structure for our decisions.

In my short time at the College it is obvious to see that we are blessed with a high quality and caring staff that acknowledges and values each student as an individual with differences that make them unique. The new strategic plan has provided the framework and focus for us to pursue our aims of developing each individual student's potential to the maximum.

As part of the four As initiative, students will be working on improving their attitude, aptitude and attendance so that they are achieving at their possible best. In 2009, the new Carol Christensen Literacy Program will be implemented at year 7. All year 7 students have been tested on their literacy level and intense work will be done to help improve each student's reading skills. There will also be a strong focus on improving student participation across all areas of the school. This will help develop their commitment towards the college as well as improve their leadership skills, interpersonal skills and team building skills by having them become more involved in school improvement initiatives and community projects.

I look forward to our future with enthusiasm and high expectations.

Sandra Eglezos
Acting Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to the start of the new school year. 2009 marks a number of changes for the College. In addition to a number of new staff, the following changes need to be noted:

Lunch passes

In the latter part of 2008, College Council reviewed the Lunch pass situation and decided that lunch passes will no longer exist at this college. What does this mean? **As of the first day of school, 2009, students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day.** This means that students will no longer be permitted to go home for lunch and consequently, lunch passes will no longer be issued to students. This will enable the college to better manage and support students in a safe and secure school environment throughout school hours. If you wish to bring lunch or other items to the school for your child, please ensure that they are clearly labelled with your child's name, and preferably home group, and brought to the College office in Kurunjang Drive. Please note: students will not be able to collect items from parents / guardians during school hours from any other location.

Uniform

Following a review of the College uniform in 2008, the College Council has endorsed the continued implementation of the uniform policy.

All uniform is to be:

- neat and clean
- pants to be worn at waist level
- no frayed edges
- no faded uniforms
- no midriffs to be visible.

If students wish to wear additional items of clothing to provide extra warmth, they are NOT to be visible. Aside from looking good, wearing a uniform helps teachers identify those who should or should not be in the school grounds.

Skirts:

As indicated via a number of newsletters throughout 2008, the College has introduced a new tartan skirt for girls. Students who already possess a blue skirt will be permitted to wear it in 2009; however, all new students to the school who wish to wear a skirt will be required to purchase the new tartan skirt from the Uniform Shop.

Shoes:

Students will only be permitted to wear closed toe black leather or suede lace-up shoes or runners, (girls are permitted to wear black leather T-bars). It is not acceptable to wear ballet flats, court shoes, high-top (basketball-type) boots and canvas shoes of any description.

Pants:

Students are only permitted to wear draw navy polyester pants purchased from the uniform shop. It is not acceptable to wear jeans, tracksuit pants, cargo pants, leggings and cropped pants.

Out of uniform passes will only be issued legitimate reasons. It is an expectation that all students have more than one set of uniform. We will not accept it being in the wash as a valid reason to be out of uniform. Your co-operation in ensuring that your child attends school properly attired is appreciated. If you experience hardship which makes purchase of the College uniform difficult, please contact the College to discuss support / assistance that may be available.

School start and finish times

Some changes have been made to the start and end of the College day. Home group commences each day at 8:45 am, lunch will run from 12:38 pm to 1:38 pm, and students will be dismissed at 3:16 pm. Students will be issued with specific period bell times on their first day. Students are required to be in attendance from the commencement of home group, until the end of the school day.

Key events

Monday, 2 February	Students return to school for 2009.
Tuesday, 10 February	Parent Information BBQ – Year 7 students and parents
Tuesday, 17 February	Parent Information BBQ – Year 11 & 12 students and parents
Monday, 2 March	School Photographs
Tuesday, 24 March	Parent Teacher Interviews.

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If you prefer to receive your Newsletter by email, simply send an email to this address,

newsletter-request@kurungangsc.vic.edu.au

The body of the message need only contain the word *subscribe*.

VET COURSES FOR 2009

Final payment for VET courses in 2009 is now due. If you are experiencing financial difficulty please contact Leonie Gray, Business Manager to make alternative arrangements.

EMA

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, 28 January 2009 (which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3, 13 July 2009.

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **29 February 2009** for the first instalment and **1 August 2009** for the second instalment

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Schools receive the school portion electronically twice a year and parents/guardians receive their portion via two cheques. Students turning 16 years in 2009, will be paid on a pro rata basis and not on the 70/30% basis.

Instalment	Portion	Secondary School
One	Parent School	\$155.05 \$155.05
Two	Parent School	\$66.45 \$66.45
	Total	\$443.00

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents, who transfer children to another school after 27 February 2009 and prior to or on 7 August 2009, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Healthcare and Pension card holders can now apply for 2009 EMA payments at the General Office. Cards must be valid to start of school, 28 January, 2009.