

# Kurunjang Secondary College

## Parent Newsletter



18 May 2009

Website: [www.kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au)

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Students and staff have been diligently working through semester one. It is an important time to discuss your child's progress with them. We are happy to talk about any concerns that you may have so that a better outcome can be achieved for semester one.

There has been a great deal of work done during the term break to refurbish the Junior School and Technology area. Many of our staff worked throughout the break to ensure that this work was completed. Staff also worked with the year 12 students to prepare them for their SACs and to summarise and clarify areas in their study, and other staff worked together to plan new learning programs.

Our students have been involved in many activities such as outdoor education camps, sporting competitions, debating competitions and excursions. They have had several meetings in Student Voice and we have presented all student leaders with their badges at a special assembly that acknowledged them to the community. These badges were presented by the Local Member of Parliament, Don Nardella. It is anticipated that students will work with staff to implement ideas that will further improve the college.

The College Open Evening occurred on the 28<sup>th</sup> April. I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents that contributed to the planning and running of the evening. The Primary school families were very impressed with our programs, facilities and the general feel of our school as they worked and spoke with the students and staff on the night. Special thanks go to Janeen O'Connell; Transition Leader and the transition team made up of David Oastler, Tina Walkeden, Christine Warke and Gordon Harvey.

### New Staff

The Kurunjang Secondary College community welcomes Melissa Knezevic who is working with Merrill Farmer on career counselling with the senior students. Melissa has expertise in working with young people. She is enthusiastic and passionate about the work that she is doing within the college. Students have already connected positively with Melissa.

### 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](mailto:newsletter-request@kurunjangsc.vic.edu.au). The body of the message need only contain the word **subscribe**.

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### Attendance Process

Kurunjang Secondary College is committed to no less than 90% attendance. To support students whose attendance falls below the 90%, catch up classes will be offered to ensure that they are keeping up with all missed work and to regain the time that they missed from class. This means that students and parents will be informed of their child's attendance data when it reaches this threshold and the need to complete catch up class. This is in place to help them stay above the 90% expected attendance level. The absence percentage is made up of approved and unapproved absences. Unapproved absences are not accepted at the college and would lead to further consequences through our discipline policy. Approved absences lateness and leaving early will still contribute to the student's overall absence rate. The following are recognised as valid approved absence by Kurunjang Secondary College:

1. Illness
  2. Illness, death or emergency in the family
  3. Religious observance
  4. Quarantine
  5. Required court appearance
- Attendance at health clinic, doctor's appointment

Absence from classes due to school based decisions does not affect their child's absence percentage. These include:

1. Withdrawal to attend instrumental music classes
2. Sick bay
3. Camps
4. Meeting with student management or welfare staff
5. Excursions
6. Incursions
7. Sport activities

## 8. Suspensions

## 9. Withdrawal to participate in other activities

It is imperative that students check their attendance data to ensure that it is accurate and that missed classes due to school based decision have been recorded accurately.

Regular attendance and punctuality is an essential skill that is needed by all students as we prepare them for life of work. 10% absence means in real terms, 20 days of sick leave and it is anticipated that students would be well under this threshold.

Special consideration will be given to students who have chronic absence due to hospitalization, long term health or family issues. Parents can apply in writing for special consideration to the Head of School. If special consideration is given, the absence will not count towards their 10% absence rate and student will be exempt from attending catch up class.

If you have any questions on our Attendance Process, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Yaap Bykersma (Attendance Officer) or Mr Gordon Harvey (Assistant Principal).

## The Importance of Punctuality

We are concerned about the number of students who are regularly late to start school each day. As principal, I have been standing outside the front well after homegroup has started and witnessed many parents dropping off their children at this time. We are asking for the support of every family to ensure that their children arrive at school on time.

We are trying to demonstrate the importance of regular and punctual attendance at each class. Students, who arrive late to class, interrupt the learning program for themselves as well as other students in the class. Expectations from the teacher in every class are high for each of their students. We expect that students are on time, ready to work with the right class materials and demonstrating a positive attitude towards their learning and other students in the class. Students have been informed that if they are late to class on two occasions, it will affect their attendance percentage for that class. It will also lead to further consequences through our discipline policy. We are asking parents to discuss the importance of punctuality with their child.

**Sandra Eglezos**  
Principal

## EXAMINATIONS

As the end of the semester approaches, so does the examination period for students in Years 9 to 12. Just a reminder that every Year 9 and Year 10 student will be required to sit an examination in each of their core subjects and that every Year 11 and 12 student will be required to sit an examination in each of their VCE studies.

The examination timetable for Year 9 & 10 is as follows:

	Year 10		Year 9	
	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Period 1 & 2	English Exam	Maths Exam	English Exam	Maths Exam
Recess				
Period 3 & 4	Humanities Exam	Science Exam	HAPE Exam	Science Exam
Lunch				
Period 5 & 6	Dismissed to study at home	Dismissed to study at home	Dismissed to study at home	Dismissed to study at home

Unit 1 & 2 VCE examinations will be conducted from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June til Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Unit 3 & 4 VCE exams including the GAT will be conducted from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June til Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June. All students will be provided with their individual exam timetable.

If you would like some tips on how to support your child in preparing for their exams please refer to their College diary which include lots of great strategies and study techniques. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the relevant Year Level Coordinator at the College.

**Sarah Loughlin**  
Head of Senior School

## IMMUNISATION

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Immunisations for the Year 7 girl's HPV vaccination will be held on the morning of Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May.

Students that have missed out on their 1<sup>st</sup> round of vaccinations, being Year 7 Hep B or Chicken pox or Year 10 Boostrix will be able to be vaccinated on this day, as we need to order the correct number of vaccination for that day, students must see Sophie Bykersma in sickbay if you missed your first round.

**Sophie Bykersma, School Nurse**

## PARENT & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### Second Hand Uniforms

#### Special Meeting

At the moment we do not sell second hand uniforms at the college. Parents and Friends Association have been discussing the opportunity to start the process of second hand uniform sales. A working party will be formed to get this process on the way. If you are interested in being part of the working party on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**, 9.00 am please join us. Contact Christine Warke at the College.

The PFA meets first Wednesday of month at 9.00am. New members welcome.

**Sharon Young**  
President, PFA

## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

### Claire Morton



Has achieved Guiding's Peak Achievement Award, the Queens Guide Award. This is the highest award that can be earned by youth members of Girl Guides Australia. In achieving the Queen's Guide Award Claire has displayed a sustained effort to

attain a wide range of knowledge and skills and also developed a high degree of initiative, self-motivation, responsibility and reliability. Claire will be presented her award in October by the Governor of Victoria, Professor De Kretser.

**'Congratulations Claire.'**

## DEBATING TEAMS



Joey was away for photo

The Kurunjang Secondary College Debating Teams are doing exceptionally well.

There are 2 teams in the "D" Grade competition, and one team in the "C" grade competition. We have registered in the Debater's Association of Victoria competition.

Last Monday (11<sup>th</sup> May) each of the 3 teams had a win, defeating Keilor Downs Secondary College, Overnewton College and Isis College. Previously our teams have defeated St Bernard's College, Over Newton College and CRC St Albans. The competition for the students in "C" grade is becoming increasingly difficult, with the last round, and the next one being secret topics. This means we don't know the topic until one hour before the debate. The team members have space to work and research with newspapers, but are not allowed to use computers, or to get help from teachers. It is to the team's credit that, being the first time they have been involved in this level of competition, they defeated Overnewton.

Speakers of the round (awarded by the adjudicators) have been Brooke Jessel, Brittnie Stock Lopez, Tenielle Scalzo and Nicole Bonnici.

Our team members are:

Joey Edwards  
Nicole Bonnici  
Nicole  
Bicara Van de Elzen  
Lisa Kight  
Lauren McGrath  
Tenielle Scalzo  
Brittnie Stock Lopez  
Brooke Jessel  
Anne Bentley

The Debating team fees are quite expensive, and we would all really like to thank Mr Angus Jessel for donating a Nintendo DS (Guitar Hero) for us to raffle to raise funds for the teams.

A big thank you also to the parents who attend each time we debate. It is a long day – school or work all day, then travel to St Bernard's in Essendon to compete – and then home again.

**'Congratulations to all the girls'**

### Debating Teachers

**Janeen O'Connell, Margaret Duffy and Natalie Gauci**

## CAREERS NOTICE

**Careers in Sports Medicine and Science Seminar Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

There is an admission cost. Careers presentation will be provided on the Following professions

- Exercise Science
- Physiotherapy
- Medicine
- Psychology
- Dietetics
- Osteopathy
- Podiatry
- 

See Ms Farmer for a registration form

## VCAL



The VCAL class is fixing an old bike and then donating it to a worthy family such as a bushfire survivor. Our class needs donations of BMX bikes and BMX spare parts to assist

with the project.

The class is also planning fund raising activities such as a car wash to pay for expenses.

We will be taking before and after photos of the bike and other events involved with the project.

Stay tuned.....

## 2010 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS NOW AVAILABLE

Dear Parent,

Does your child have a performing arts talent (music, drama, and dance) or achieves academic excellence, or is exceptionally good at one or more sports?

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have \$300 to help towards your child's Year 7 education at Kurunjang Secondary College?

Please feel free to pick up a Scholarship application form from the School, fill it in, and get it back to the School Office no later than 4 pm 19<sup>th</sup> June, and GOOD LUCK. There are 3 Scholarships to be awarded—one in each of the categories—Performing Arts, Sport, Academic Excellence.

Ms O'Connell

Head of Junior School

## SPORT REPORT

### Year 8 Boys Football

The boys started off the day by playing Melton to determine who would play off in the final along with the winner of Staughton and Bacchus Marsh. After a tight start to the game the boys then ran away with it and dominated the game to progress through to the final. The results of this match were:

KURUNJANG 18.9.117 DEF  
MELTON 3.1.19

GOALS: Darcy Gallop 4, Ben Fray 4, Phil Hoyland, Thomas Robinson 2, Matt Farrugia 2, Brenden Casley 1, Hayden Castle 1, Daniel Leggett 1 and Anthony Pacers 1.

Best on the ground: Daniel Hillier, Darcy Gallop, Phil Hoyland, Thomas Robinson, Jake Francis, and Ben Froy.

In the final the boys came up against Staughton after they defeated Bacchus Marsh. In this game the boys started off well by kicking the first 4 goals of the match. Staughton then fought back and got the margin back to 15 Points by half time. In the second half Staughton kept fighting back but the boys held them off well to eventually win by 18 points. The results of this match were:

KURUNJANG 9.9.63 DEF  
STAUGHTON 7.3.45

GOALS: Darcy Gallop 5, Phil Hoyland 2, Ben Froy 1 and Thomas Robinson 1.

Best on the ground: Darcy Gallop, Phil Hoyland, Daniel Vasjuta, Ellery Millson, Daniel Hillier, Thomas Robinson

### Intermediate Boys Football

The results for intermediate boys' football are as follows:

Boys won 1st game against Melton Secondary and unfortunately had a finals loss to Staughton.

Girls' junior results were as follows:

Girls had a first game loss (trailing by only 4 points) to Bacchus Marsh and a second game win to Melton Secondary.

**'Congratulations to all our teams'**

### Net Ball Training



MONDAY 18 May: Year 7 Girls  
TUESDAY 19 May: Year 8 Girls  
Friday 22 May: Junior Boys

## UNIFORM SHOP

Tuesday 12.00 - 2.00 pm

Thursday 2.30 - 5.30 pm

### WHAT'S ON AT KURUNJANG

#### Use of Library Computers at Lunchtime

Students can reserve computers in a book at the library circulation desk.

- Before school or
- After school for the following day
- 1 booking per student only
- Computers will be held for 10 minutes only after the start of lunch.

We are trialling the use of the VCE private study area as quiet working space for VCE students at lunchtime and the three computers in this area are kept for VCE use only.

#### BOARD GAMES ROOM

Are you interested in having a room where you can come and play board games and card games lunchtime? [See Ms Warke](#)

### PERFORMING ARTS



## Breakfast Club

Every Friday morning in S8 at 7.50 am come and join us for breakfast, in the warm dining room.

Hot cereal, toast, fruit, juice, hot Milo. Special Breakfast and special guests.

You could book a breakfast for your home group this term. Your homegroup needs to start at 8.10am to have an early breakfast.

**Ms Warke.**

## CONTACTING THE COLLEGE

### NEW PHONE SYSTEM

#### Junior School

Junior School covers years 7, 8 and 9

If you wish to advise the college of your son/daughter's **absence in Junior School** you should select **Option 1** when prompted.

This option goes direct to voicemail to allow you to leave a message.

**Option 4** your call will be transferred to the **Junior School Coordinator's home group teachers, as well as the head of junior school.**

#### Senior School

Senior School covers years 10, 11 and 12.

If you wish to advise the college of your son/daughter's **absence in Senior School** you should select **Option 2** when prompted.

This option goes direct to voicemail to allow you to leave a message.

**Options 5** allow you to get in contact with **Senior School Coordinator's, home group teachers, as well as the head of senior school.**

**Option 6** Calls will be transferred to the **general office.** The general office includes EMA, financial matters, prospective enrolments, Principal and Assistant Principal's as well as general enquiries.

## 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.



Are you parenting young adolescents???

The Abcd program...

...Is a practical and enjoyable program to help parents understand and cope better with the challenges of early adolescence?

Parents of early adolescents (years 7, 8 and 9) are invited to come along and explore the many challenges that confront parents today.

What to expect?

- 4 x 2 hour sessions over 4 weeks
- Program led by experienced facilitator
- Groups of 8-15
- Share experiences with other parents

Where and when?

VENUE: Staughton College  
Melton South

Ph: 0413 013 673

DATE: Begins Thursday 28 May 2009

TIME: 1.00pm –3.00pm

*CONTACT: Ms Sheryn Mitrevics*

*REFRESHMENTS: Provided*

*COST: FREE*

*BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL*



# Parents Victoria Online Conference

## 18-24 May 2009

\* School leaders and teachers are invited to inform parents of this no-cost opportunity for discussion and debate.

\* If you have already registered, simply log on to [http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1\\_09/](http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/) any time from am on Monday 18 May.

**PARENTS** of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from am Monday 18 May to midnight Sunday 24 May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. **You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part.** Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

### Prizes for participation

An interactive whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria **member school** that has the greatest number of individual participants over the entire conference. To be eligible, participants must be correctly registered and leave at least one comment on the discussion boards.

In addition, one of three notebooks will be won by:

1. The **member school** with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the week-long question
2. The school with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the question re parental engagement
3. The **member school** with the most correctly registered individual participants who leave comments on the daily questions on either Saturday 23rd May or Sunday 24th May.

*\*Member schools are defined as schools whose 2009 membership payment has been received by 15 May 2009. Membership information can be obtained by phone (03) 93802158 or email [office@parentsvictoria.asn.au](mailto:office@parentsvictoria.asn.au)*

### Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from is on Monday 18 May at: [http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1\\_09/](http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/) but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>

The conference will feature seven 'live' daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria or expert staff from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the VSCA. Each day will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents. An online 'resource bundle' of recent online newspaper items related to the day's topic will also be provided as an optional extra to give you a kick-start on each day's discussion.

There will also be one continuous week-long online discussion (am to midnight every day) on the topic: **'What support do parents need to be active participants in their children's learning and development?'**

**The Program (the online message boards will be open continuously from am to 12 midnight every day).**

**MONDAY 18 MAY. School attendance - when is it okay to stay away?** (Hosted sessions by Leanne McCurdy, Parents Victoria, 9.30 to 10.30 am; 2 pm to 3 pm and 7.30 to 8.30 pm).

**TUESDAY 19 MAY. Parental engagement - What can be done to get more parents involved in their children's schools?** (Hosted session by John Allman, General Manager, Education Regeneration & Community Partnerships, and other staff, DEECD from 12 noon to 3 pm. Also, hosted session by Kylie Moore, Parents Victoria, 9.30 to 11.30 pm).

**WEDNESDAY 20 MAY. Cyber bullying - how do we keep our children safe?** (Hosted session by Nicki Sweeney, Parents Victoria, 9.30 to 11.30 am and 7 pm to 8 pm).

**THURSDAY 21 MAY. Banning confectionery from school canteens - tell us your thoughts** (Hosted session by Prue Cerin, Victorian School Canteen Association, 10.30 am to 12.30 & 2 pm to 3 pm. Also, hosted session by Sharron Healy, Parents Victoria, am to 10.30 am; 8 pm to 9 pm)

**FRIDAY 22 MAY. Transition - what could be done to improve transition from one level of schooling to the next, i.e. kindergarten to primary, year 6 to secondary?** (Hosted session by Pippa Proctor, Project Manager, K-Prep Transition, and DEECD from 10 am to 12 noon. Also, hosted session by Paula Gilby, Parents Victoria, 1 pm to 3 pm).

**SATURDAY 23 MAY. Sex education - who's responsible?** (Hosted session by Margaret Pledger, Parents Victoria, 11 am to 12.30 & 2.30 pm to 4 pm).

**SUNDAY 24 MAY. Parent/teacher meetings - how could these meetings be improved?** (Hosted session by Elaine Crowle, Parents Victoria, 12 noon to 2 pm & 8 pm to 9 pm).

