

Senior News

Every Student, Every Opportunity, Success for All

Principals Report

Overall we believe that classes began very smoothly during the first week. The Year 10 students have adjusted easily to their new surroundings and once again demonstrates the importance of a rigorous Head Start program. A critical part of the Year 12 program is the information and opportunities presented in the Graduate Program (GP) classes. It is important for students to attend as they will be given a very clear insight on how to get the very best out of their last year of secondary school and how to prepare themselves now for whatever pathway they chose in 2016.

We would appreciate parent support in stressing to their children the importance of regular attendance and participation in class activities. We are concentrating on making sure students are in class. We will be contacting parents if students are not attending or missing classes. I am often asked by parents:

How can I as a parent help my child do well at school?

Behind the children who do their best at school, work happily at their studies and are involved in school activities, are supported by parents who understand the importance of the home-school partnership. Older students may not seem as keen as younger children to see their parents at school, but they still need your support and help if they are to make the most of their abilities and do well at school.

You can help to make your child's school experience more productive if you:

1 PARTICIPATE on College Council or associated sub committees, or if meetings are not your thing, school trips, sports days and events - or support those who are able to. Vote for your representatives thoughtfully. Log onto the schools web site www.wssc.vic.edu.au and view current newsletters and information about what is happening at the College. Ask to see any notices from school and show your child you think school is an important part of family life

2 ATTEND parent, student teacher interview days and evenings and school events. Make a note of questions you want to ask at meetings and make sure they are answered - hand them to the chairperson or principal in writing if you are too nervous to speak in front of a large gathering. Test what educational speakers have to say against the experiences you and your child have had.

3 REALISE that even though we are continuously improving, the perfect school for everyone probably does not exist. Most children can survive the occasional personality clash with a teacher or poor programme and this is when your support is most needed. Meet your child's principal, assistant principals or teachers so that if problems do arise, you are not appearing at the school only when things go wrong.

4 CO-OPERATE with the school, teachers, other parents. Complain if you need to but try to avoid blaming every difficulty on the school. Sometimes children need to mature, work harder, get along better with others, learn to think for themselves, take responsibility for their own actions. The school should be providing challenges to extend your child. Sometimes your child may be taken outside their comfort zone.

Issue No: 02

**Monday 1st
February 2016**

Calendar

Thursday February 11th
School Photographs

Thursday February 18th
House Swimming Sports

Friday February 19th
School Photos Catch Up

Monday March 14th
Labour Day Holiday

Term Dates

Term 1
27th January - 24th
March

Term 2
11th April - 24th June

Term 3
11th January - 16th
September

Term 4
3rd October - 20th
December

Coordinators

Year 10
Tim Lamb
Tim Bridgeman
Naomi Wattie

Year 11
Chris North
Brydie Hind

Year 12
Simon Webb
Sheri Parkhouse

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5 TRUST your own feelings about your child. If you are sure your child needs extra attention, help or stimulation, talk to your child's GP Team Teacher or Year Level Coordinator or one of the principals. You are your child's best advocate and schools will listen to your concerns and try to put matters right.

6 ACCEPT that your child may not be academically superior if all the evidence points that way but that many average students go on to success and happiness. Do all you can to ensure that your child is making the most of the opportunities offered by the school.

7 SUPPORT the school by making sure your child attends regularly and punctually, has the right uniform and equipment, obeys school rules, supports the College Code of Conduct, pays on time for trips and services. Criticising teachers undermines their effectiveness and prevents children from taking responsibility for their learning and behaviour. We strongly believe that all students benefit and are more successful when there is effective and regular three-way communication between parents, teachers and students. If you have any concerns about any aspects of your child's schooling, feel free to contact the teacher concerned, your child's graduate program teacher, the year level coordinator or one of the Principals. We welcome your interest.

Vern Hilditch
Principal



All students at the assembly on the first day of school for 2016

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