every day counts
Secondary school attendance

Getting in early
It’s never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes, even at Year 9, when attendance rates are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts. Schools are here to help – if you’re having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

- Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and getting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.
- “Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.
- Truancy – When students choose not to go to school without their parents’ permission. There can be many reasons for truancy, the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Social Media Responsibilities
The school community are to be reminded about the appropriate use of social media. Where there is a reasonable belief that illegal activity may have occurred, the Principal may report the suspected activity to the police. Disrespectful, harassing, threatening or bullying behaviour may be considered a criminal offence under State and/or Federal law. Where the behaviour does not constitute illegal activity but does constitute cyber bullying, the principal may consult with the relevant areas of the Department of Education and early Childhood Development regarding appropriate action.

Cultural Diversity Week
Cultural Diversity Week runs from 15th to 23rd March 2014 and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.. The week provides an opportunity for all Victorians to celebrate their cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. We have students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds and they are helping us to recognize this special week with displays around the school and in the Coles supermarket windows.

Harmony Day
This day forms part of Cultural Diversity Week. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to a lack of social skills.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term - that’s four weeks of school per year.

The first round of the school immunisation program is being conducted at this school for all Year 10 students on Tuesday 18th March. Vaccination cards have been distributed to students. Please return the completed card to the office as soon as possible. If you do not want your child immunised with one or all vaccines your child is eligible for, you must complete the NO section of the relevant consent card, remembering to write your child’s name on the card. If your child has already been vaccinated elsewhere and you have not already done so, please notify Council’s immunisation service.

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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

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Upper Hume Swimming Carnival 2014

On Tuesday 4th March the Upper Hume Swimming Carnival was held at WAVES in Wodonga. WSSC was represented strongly by 20 students competing in nearly 40 individual events and relays throughout the day. The following students qualified for individual events at the Hume level competition on Tuesday 18th March:

Derek Bowey (20yr 50m breaststroke and 20yr 50m butterfly)
Kristen Wright (20yr 50m freestyle, 20yr 50m butterfly and 20yr 100m freestyle)
Laclachan Boye (20yr 50m MD breaststroke and 20yr 50m MD backstroke)
Josh Ryan (16yr 50m freestyle)
Jessica Don (17yr 50m backstroke)
Chris Anderson (16yr 50m freestyle)
Tim Smith (17yr 50m freestyle, 20yr 200m I.M. and 17yr 50m butterfly)

The College had a great success with their relay teams, with the 16yr male medley, 20yr male medley, 20yr male freestyle and the 20yr female freestyle all scoring an impressive 2nd against some very strong competition. There were also some very close finishes involving our students; Tim Smith outswn Cameron Thomson of Cathedral College to come 1st in the 17yr 50m backstroke with only .49 of a second separating them, well done Tim. The 20yr female freestyle and the 20yr female freestyle all scoring an impressive 2nd against some very strong competition. There were also some very close finishes involving our students; Tim Smith outswam Cameron Thomson of Cathedral College to come 1st in the 17yr 50m backstroke with only .49 of a second separating them, well done Tim.

A special congratulations goes to Tim Smith of Year 11, who was awarded the 17yr Age Champion, an outstanding achievement and effort. A special congratulations goes to Tim Smith of Year 11, who was awarded the 17yr Age Champion, an outstanding achievement and a well-deserved title.

WSSC commends all students who took part on the day and wishes those proceeding to the next level the very best of luck.

Derek Boney
Sport Coordinator

2014 VICTORIAN PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE

The tenth annual Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge (the Challenge) is now open. The 2014 new look Challenge website is celebrating ten years of the Challenge which promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and early childhood settings. Once again students are welcome to discover the magic of books. This year the Challenge booklists have been expanded and cater for all interests. Students may also read books in other languages. This year the Challenge will soon have a dedicated Facebook page with resources for parents, and the Challenge website will be updated with weekly videos to encourage students to stay motivated and read more throughout the Challenge. Any students that are interested please see Tracey in the Library as soon as possible.

Join our Easter Family Night

Free

Easter Raffle

$1 per ticket 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes
Drawn on Monday 24th March
Tickets on sale in the library
Proceeds will be given to Uniting Care: Support for the homeless.

Fundraising Chinese Banquet

On Wednesday 12th March the students of Hospitality Food and Beverage and Commercial Cookery hosted the Chinese Study Tour Fundraiser. The night was a success serving 76 people and raising $1,200. A three-course Traditional Chinese meal was served consisting of Dim Sims/Spring Rolls for entrée, Fried Rice, Lemon Chicken, Mongolian Beef, Sweet and Sour Pork for main, and for dessert Deep-Fried Ice Cream and Banana Fritters.

Students involved gained valuable experience in waiting and cooking in a professional kitchen. Good luck to the students who are going to China later this week. We would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting our fundraiser.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Personal Items Brought to School at Owner’s Risk

The Australian College of Nursing website is now open. The 2014 new look Challenge website is celebrating ten years of the Challenge which promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools and early childhood settings. Once again students are welcome to discover the magic of books. This year the Challenge booklists have been expanded and cater for all interests. Students may also read books in other languages. This year the Challenge will soon have a dedicated Facebook page with resources for parents, and the Challenge website will be updated with weekly videos to encourage students to stay motivated and read more throughout the Challenge. Any students that are interested please see Tracey in the Library as soon as possible.

The Office will also be open during School Holidays from 9.00am - 4.00pm. Should you need to make a payment arrangement please contact the College office 0260437500. It would be appreciated that College fees are paid prior to the end of Term.

Every Student, Every Opportunity, Success for All