Parent and Visitors Access to the College

Parents and Visitors are reminded that all parents and visitors to the College need to report to reception before entering the school premises, this ensures the safety of all staff and students is maintained. Parents needing to pick up students early need to sign students out at reception before students leave.

Parking and Pick up and Drop off—Blakeley Road

Parking, pick up and drop off is only permitted at the front of the College not in the staff car park area. Cars are not permitted in the bus turnaround area at any time.
From the Principal

As you will be aware this term has been busy for us with the new building, moving the main office to Blakeley Road and with the introduction of the new Student Management Tool. I appreciate that with these pressures that some of our normal procedures have not been as smooth as we would like. I am now confident that we will be able to return next term to regular newsletter and improved communication with families. Newsletters will be distributed by email in week 3, 6 and 9 of the term. To supplement this on the new Student Management Tool we will be able to send through news and information directly to students and families regarding school events in a secure environment. This is where the school calendar of events is able to be viewed if you would like to know about upcoming event.

The School web site is being updated by one of our parents Richard Monty. Richard has contributed a great deal of time and effort and worked with us over the past 6 months to update the site with information about the school for both external and internal stakeholders. This will start to go live in term 2 with more pages coming online as they are completed. We really appreciate his support to improve this important communication tool.

There has been an announcement by the Opposition Education Advisor, Daniel Andrews, that the Labor Government if elected will ensure we have 8 million for the second stage of our building program and will complete the building program within their first term. There are many schools who have completed one or two buildings and are waiting on funding to complete their final stages of master planning. I believe it is important for students in the Mount Alexander Shire to have modern facilities to learn in and I am hoping that we will receive similar support from the current Government. At this stage I am working with the Regional Office about planning money for Stage 2 and am hoping that these funds are received this year so that building could start as soon as possible.

As part of Education Week celebrations next term, on Sunday 25 May we will be having a Community Open Day from 1 – 3pm for all community members, past and present students to visit and see the new building and learn about the changes these new facilities will allow, along with the opportunity to see and hear about future buildings. More detailed information will be sent out at the start of next term.

As you will be aware we have just had our council elections. We had three vacancies for parent representatives and received three nominations thus our parent representatives are duly elected. Therefore our current parent representatives on College Council are:

Gary Fryer  Ellen Madigan  Sam Johnston  Kellie Showell  David Woodgrove

I would like to acknowledge our outgoing School Council President, Neal Bethune, for his contribution on School Council. Neal has been a strong advocate for the school and worked tirelessly to ensure the school has been supported and governed effectively. He has done this through many roles on the College Council including School Council President and Vice-President and through participation in many sub committees.

Enjoy the holidays and please stay safe if you are travelling.
Mary

Attendance Changes

There has been a significant change to the legislation regarding attendance at school. As you will be aware, we have always had legislation that children under the age of 17 should, unless an exception is granted, be attending school. The new changes mean that if a students is away for more than 5 days as an unexplained absence, or with a reason that is unapproved, the school must follow up with families and ensure that they understand the legislation and the responsibility of families to ensure that their child attend school each day. If that is not successful and the student continues to be away then there are now procedures in place where the school must report these absences and then, if there is no change in the student’s attendance, parents may be fined $70 per day. It was announced in January but came into effect in March. It is important that as parents you understand that days absent for Birthdays, “special days off”, time to go shopping and alike are not approved reasons for student absence. The only reason for student absence should be medical reasons. Currently the Principals of the Mt Alexander Shire are working to develop a strategy to address this as we have the highest number of student absences across the state of Victoria. This means that our students may be missing 20 days, or 1 month, of learning each year from Grade 1. By the time they reach year 12 that means they have missed one full year of their education and this will affect their level of educational achievement and thus their future job opportunities. It is important, particularly in the VCE year that if a student is absent for illness a medical certificate can, if it is an ongoing illness, be used to show effects on learning and special considerations can be sought for individual children. If children are ill they should remain at home. However all other appointments should, as best we can, be made outside of school time and students should return to school after a dentist or doctor’s appointment. We need to be clear so that students understand that taking days off for reasons other than Illness does effect their grades and their sense of achievement. If you are interested in your child’s attendance you are able to check attendance from Term 2 on the Student Management Tool with your user name and passwords that have been sent home. It shows attendance each day by subject and monitors how many days illness your child has had. The records for Term 1 may be a little inconsistent as we have worked through technical issues for roll marking. If you do see an error, please contact the Mentor teacher and they can correct this data.

Recently it has been concerning that there have been students who have been taking the day off school or leaving school early to attend music concerts. This is not classified as an approved absence from school. We know that the higher rates of attendance that students have at school, the more successful they will be in their schooling. Classwork missed is very hard to catch up and we would encourage parents to support the school in not allowing their child to attend these activities during school hours.
VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning)
Special Feature
Jan Miletic (VCAL Coordinator)

What a busy term this has been for the Year 12 VCAL class. They have managed to raise $1200.00 for two organisations ($600 each), bring about 5 events, plan for 3 major upcoming events and volunteer at the Harcourt Applefest. It has been great watching 16 young adults communicate, co-operative, plan and work together to achieve final outcomes.

We hope you enjoy this special edition of VCAL events that have taken place during Term 1.

State School Relief Fundraiser
The VCAL students ran a hotdog, drinks and fruit salad stall at the swimming sports. All funds raised ($600.00) were donated to the State School Relief Fund. This was a group effort in planning and organisation.

National Red Balloon Day/CFA Fundraiser
VCAL ran fund raising activities during the week of Feb 24 – 28. They sold Red Balloons which thanked our Fireys, collected loose change, ran an out of uniform day and had a pancake sale on both campuses. Funds raised ($600.00) will be donated to the local CFA unit.

Cade was the planner and all students assisted in the event. Thank you to the BRC CFA students who assisted: Mikayla, Emma, Demi, Sam and Sam.
Harcourt Applefest
On Friday 7 March, 11 VCAL students assisted the Harcourt community in the morning to set up for the Applefest. On Saturday 6 students volunteered to help out at the festive doing various jobs to gain skills and experience.

East Timor Lolotoe Visit
Three adults and two university students from the Lolotoe will be visiting our region for a week, sponsored by the Mount Alexander Shire and the Mt Alexander Shire East Timor Friendship Group. The two students will be hosted by Dylan and Hope. The VCAL has over the years supporting fund raising for the Lolotoe schools.

Active April
Ollie (VCAL and VCE PE) has been busy planning and organising Active April with the assistance of Alana Wearne. The aim is to get everyone to participate in 30 minutes of activity each day for April. Visit the web site, log on and join your college sports team. Ollie says ‘great prizes can be won’.

Youth Week
The Year 12 VCAL group have also been preparing for a Youth Week celebration (2nd week in term 2) on both campuses. Free food, entertainment and prizes. Look out for more information. ‘This event is supported by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments’.

Fit to Drive
Fit2Drive is a Year 11 Road Safety program run by various community organisations which promotes safe driving to Year 11 students. It is a half day event run by young facilitators with the aim of making the students aware of road scenarios when they start to drive. This program was organised by VCAL Students Stacey and Melissa.

Keys Please
From the Canteen!
Hello Everyone

As you may have heard in 2013 the school canteen was operated by Growing Abundance, a local not for profit, food focused community project, who is passionate about fresh, seasonal and local food with community building at its heart. Thanks to the fantastic support we received from the school community. We will be back again in 2014!

We are very excited by the opportunity to be in our local secondary schools – Tammy and Christine are the canteen ladies at the Etty Street Campus and Katherine and Lesley at the Blakeley Road Campus.

Whilst we have a long term strategic plan to bring our teenagers healthier food – the change will be slow and subtle – we are slowly reducing items that are not so favorable for our children to eat. We have already changed quite a lot of supply by buying directly from the farm gate and where ever possible, have chosen organic or chemical free produce, making homemade mayonnaise, cooking our chickens daily, sourcing local eggs, purchasing fruit from our Harcourt growers to name just a few of the changes.

We also have a policy of reducing waste and are conscious that in the future we would like to be able to eliminate the use of takeaway containers and encourage the children to compost and recycle their lunch wrappers. Right now we are focusing on setting precedents about how we operate inside the canteen.

The canteen simply can not run without the generosity of individuals and local business’s who support us, either by giving up time to volunteer, supplying produce at reduced prices or even donating produce.

Last year and again this year Mount Alexander Fruit gardens have given us fruit to give to students.

We are able to provide free breakfast for all children, thanks to the ongoing and generous support of Redbeard Bakery who are supplying us with certified organic sourdough bread (made from locally sourced flour) including scrumptious fruit loaf filled with great Mildura dried fruit. Students are all welcome to pop into the canteen and help themselves anytime before school.

What has become more obvious to us (in order to reduce waste and cost) is that we need students to pre order their lunches – can you please encourage them to order before recess or at recess for lunch orders – this is very helpful and ensures they do not miss out because we are sold out or reduces the wait at lunch time. It also means we can continue to try to keep food as cheap as possible – so all students can buy a healthy lunch.

We welcome parents to participate in the canteen by volunteering to work alongside our canteen team, it’s lots of fun and a great way to see what a fantastic school Castlemaine Secondary is!

Call Deb 0414 814 993 or email debbietaelor@usetings.com.au. If you can volunteer an hour or two over the next term, it’s a great place to experience the school community and it can really work with your input and ideas.

Growing Abundance is excited to be a part of the school community at Castlemaine Secondary College and looks forward to an even strong partnership in 2014.

Please find Blakeley Road Campus Menu attached to this newsletter.

Japanese Students Visit
Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10 August 2014

We are again fortunate to have a group of students from Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan visit our College this year.

To enable this to run smoothly, we are looking for students and families to host these students whilst here.

This is a truly rewarding and worthwhile experience. Primarily we are looking for families of year 7 to 9 students, but any year level would be more than welcome. There are application forms available from both offices for anyone that is interested.

We are organising another trip to Japan in 2015, so this may be a wonderful opportunity to establish some rewarding friendships.

If you would like more information or have any queries please contact Lyn Ellery on 5479 1111. Thank you.
World’s Greatest Shave

It was a fun activity at Etty St Campus that had a serious side to it.

Yr11 student Travis Elliot supported his brother, former CSC student Scott, in shaving their cranial fur as part of the World’s Greatest Shave promotion to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. A lunchtime BBQ run by VCAL students helped raise $300 on the day. In total, Scott and Travis have raised nearly $1500 towards supporting Leukaemia research. For the Elliot brothers, cancer has touched their family in recent times. In 2011, their mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and Travis’ great uncle died from leukaemia.

Community support came in a variety of forms. Ex-student Molly York, now working at local Hairdressers 213 Hair Design Barker St, and her employer Terry Evans lent their expertise to make sure things went smoothly. Bakers Delight donated bread, and Top Meats gave a discount for the BBQ meat. If anyone would still like to sponsor Travis or Scott they can visit www.worldsgreatestshave.com.au, click SPONSOR, and type SCOTT ELLIOTT.

**photos courtesy of Lisa Dennis Castlemaine Mail**

Library News

Author visit: Local author Ellie Marney was a guest at our last Year 9 Book Club session for the term. The students put on a delicious lunch, and Ellie entertained us all with her stories about life as a writer and a reader. If you are a fan of young adult crime stories, why don’t you read Ellie’s book “Every Breath”?

Literature Enrichment Program: A number of year 8 and 9 students have been invited to take part in a Literature Enrichment Program this year. The aim of the Program is to encourage the students involved to challenge themselves in their reading and their thinking by reading and discussing classic literature. Participants in the Program have been asked to read from a selection of literary works, including novels, plays, short stories and poetry; and to take part in some workshops/presentations to be held throughout Term 2.

A student in profile

Name: Mikayla Z. Year level: 7
What book are you reading now? “The Truth about Verity Sparks” by Susan Green
What was the last book you read? “Verity Sparks Lost and Found” by Susan Green
What do you like about reading, or why do you think it important? Reading takes you to other worlds. You can imagine what the characters are thinking and feeling. You can also learn new things such as words you haven’t come across before.

A staff member in profile

Name: Trudy Woods Subjects taught: PE & Health
What book are you reading now? “The Boy Who Fell to Earth” by Kathy Lette (Very funny but also insightful into the aspergers/autism spectrum)
What was the last book you read? “Flight Behaviour” by Barbara Kingsolver
What do you like about reading, or why do you think it is important? No matter whether fiction or non-fiction you can always learn something and a book (even an ordinary one) can be great entertainment. And so portable – you can read a book anywhere!!!!!
**Premiers Active April**

Castlemaine Secondary College is excited to be participating in the Premiers Active April this year, we are encouraging all students, staff and parents to sign up. Year 12 VCAL & VCE PE student Ollie Banko is driving the initiative and is working hard to get as many people involved as possible and to organise some great prizes as a reward. We are asking all who sign up to join one of our house teams so if you’d like to support your son or daughter’s house please follow the process below. We are looking forward to continuing to build our strong, fit and healthy community!

To sign up to Active April, head to [www.activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au) or download the Active April app

Click on register and select student

Fill in the required fields and any extras if you want

Validate your registration via your email and login (You receive an email with a link)

Click on the ‘join teams’ button, find the team id box and fill out your school house i.e. type in Kalimna, Pennyweight, Kaweeka or Moonlight

Ms Wearne will then validate your entry. You’ll be able to start logging your physical activity in April and be in the running to win prizes.

We are keeping a tally of sign-ups by House, see below!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kalimna</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennyweight</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaweeka</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moonlight</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Information for Parents**

Premier's Active April encourages Victorians to participate in 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. It's free, it's fun and it's part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to get more people more active, more often.

This flyer was prepared for parents whose child’s school is participating in Premier’s Active April.

Establishing the importance of physical activity, especially childhood, can have numerous lifelong participation with resulting health, social, economic and environmental benefits for individuals and communities.

Formerly known as The Premier’s Active Families Challenge, in 2014 the program has a new name and a new look.

Families that register to participate will be supported with healthy eating and physical activity tips and incentives. Every participant will also receive:

- 10 free YWCA passes
- One free child pass to the National Sports Museum and MCG Tour
- One free child pass to SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium
- One free hour of tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
- A chance to win great prizes

In 2013 more than 81,000 Victorians participated. In 2014, Premier's Active April is set to be even bigger and better.

You can help support your child by joining in Active April and being active as a family after school and on weekends.

Go to [activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://activeapril.vic.gov.au) to register today.

**It's Fun and it's Free!**

Terms and conditions for all prizes and offers apply. Visit [activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://activeapril.vic.gov.au) for details.
Quelle journée!

Over 50 French students went to Melbourne during March to enjoy the Alliance Français film festival followed by a French meal at the Bergerac restaurant. Two excursions took place, one for Year 10 students and the other for VCE students. Both groups went by train and tram to the Kino cinema and walked back to King St to enjoy a 2 course French meal. Many students tried the delicious escargots for the first time and loved them! And the crème brûlée was just heaven! C'était délicieux! The VCE students practiced their French conversation skills for most of the day and both groups worked on writing about the films before and afterwards to link it into their learning. The Year 9 students will be seeing a French film at our own Theatre Royal early in April.

Here we see students enjoying their déjeuner!

Loddon Mallee Region Swimming

We sent a small team of only seven swimmers on the long road trip to Swan Hill - Richard, Torsten, Auryn, Megan, Sidney, Kari and Roselin. For some it was a long day for one event but being combined with the primary sports, some students got to watch their siblings compete as well. Auryn had a very successful meet with two firsts and he will now compete in the State Finals on the 29 April. Good luck Auryn. Torsten was also pleased with his efforts with two seconds and two third placings. Thank you to Jane Lau who drove our team to the event and parents, Judith and Bill for their support on the day with official duties.

Goldfields Tennis

Despite the drama of the bus breaking down on the trip to Maryborough, we arrived in time for some competitive tennis action on the lawn courts – something our players don’t get to play on regularly and there were a few odd bounces!!

The year 7 girls team of Bridie, Rachelle, Jezabel and Brianna won their section and now play the LMR round in Mildura on the 30 April. The Yea8/9 combination of Rylie, Angela, Jasmine and Sidney were runners up in their section. Oscar, Nick, Josh and Tristan were also competitive in the Senior boys matches with some doubles wins.

The next sporting event will be the winter round robin - Football, Netball, Soccer in May.

Cricket

The Senior boys had an easy win over Maryborough in their friendly match to christen the Blakeley Road oval.

Professional Development for CSC Staff: Improving our teaching of emotional intelligence

During the second last week of term, Alana Weaone (Engagement and Wellbeing Leading Teacher) and I were privileged to represent CSC staff at an intensive four day workshop run by Professor Marc Brackett from Yale University. Professor Brackett is a world leading expert in the field of teaching emotional intelligence in schools and he has developed a comprehensive school program known as RULER. While CSC has always strived to teach emotional and personal development alongside the traditional academic disciplines, we are hopeful that our experiences with Professor Brackett this week will provide us with new and improved techniques for teaching emotional intelligence in our classrooms. Alana and I now look forward to sharing our recent experiences with CSC staff during professional learning meetings next term, as well as relevant parent information in future newsletters. For an initial overview of Professor Brackett’s work and his recent workshop in Bendigo, please see the following links:

http://ei.yale.edu/ruler/


Paul Frye
Assistant Principal – Student Engagement and Wellbeing
Solving the Jigsaw Opportunity for Year 7

CSC along with the support of a group of parents who are passionate about preventing violence and developing a culture of well-being in our school are working hard to support the training of Alana Wearne (Wellbeing & Engagement Leader) to become a Solving the Jigsaw facilitator.

Solving the Jigsaw believes that children have the right to be safe and to feel safe. The Solving the Jigsaw program helps kids and teachers identify and manage abuses of power at school, at home and in their community. It provides useful skills and strategies to do so. It aims to foster engagement, caring, trust and well-being. Solving the Jigsaw helps kids learn to prevent and manage threats of bullying at school and violence at home and in the community - this is critical to our kids being able to learn. Topics that will be covered in the program include: strengths and gorgeous qualities, heart qualities, beliefs and values, trust groups, support systems, bullying and violence, resilience and optimism, tolerance, wellbeing, group dynamics and friendships, feelings and emotions, loss and grief, anger, families, belonging, alcohol and other drugs, transition and change.

As a part of Alana’s training she will undertake weekly sessions with a group of Year 7 students during term two and three with the support of our new Chaplain Lisa Cochrane. The sessions will go for two consecutive periods and will rotate each week to ensure students are not missing the same class each week. Some students have put their names down as an expression of interest, however if you think your Year 7 child would benefit from participating in this program or you have further questions please email Alana – wearne.alana.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

National Ride 2 School Day

Congratulations to all staff and students from both campuses who participated in the National Ride 2 School day on Wednesday 19 March. It was encouraging to see our bike racks filled with bicycles on the day. Thank you to our canteen operators who provided a healthy breakfast when our Etty Street Campus riders arrived at school, and thanks also to the Year 9 Food Crew who supplied a nutritious breakfast for our Blakeley Road Campus riders. A further special feature of the day at the Blakeley Road Campus was a presentation by local physiotherapist Paul Lamb. Paul is currently preparing for a bike ride from Melbourne to Darwin to raise money for a ‘Save the Orang-utans’ charity, and many of our Blakeley Road Campus students enjoyed hearing about Paul’s upcoming cycling adventure.

Finally, a special thank you must go to the organising teachers of this event: Steve Carroll, Alana Wearne and Mark Johansson (who rode his bike from his home in Daylesford!).
Student participation in a Women’s Health Project.

Castlemaine Secondary College has been invited to participate in a state wide research project called the Waratah Project. A small selection of female students have been identified for participation and letters will be sent home to parents outlining the aims of the project. A summary can be read below.

Participation is voluntary and parents are welcome to request inclusion or exclusion of their child in this project.

The Waratah Team will be visiting Castlemaine Secondary College on 8 May.

The Waratah Project is an in-depth study of menstruation with the aim of creating a solid body of research and opening up the collective conversation to bring about positive change in a much-needed area of women’s lives.

As part of our extensive research, we are asking women and girls across the state of Victoria to share their experiences, thoughts and feelings on this topic with us. These discussions are informal in style and are gently guided by trained facilitators from our team.

Any further questions regarding this project can be answered by the Secondary School Nurse: Tara Gilbee 5479 1111 (Days of work - Thursday and Friday)

Community News

Tuning in to Kids

Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six session parenting program

Would you like to learn how to:
- understand your child’s behaviour?
- help your child learn to manage their feelings and emotions such as worry, frustration and anger?
- teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence.

Children with higher emotional intelligence:
- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry

Term 2, 2014

When: Thursday mornings 9.30am - 11.30am
1st May—5th June (6 consecutive weeks)

Where: Castlemaine District Community Health
13 Mostyn St, Castlemaine

Cost: Free
Childcare: Sorry, childcare is not provided

Contact facilitators Prue Robertson and Peter Hunt to register on 5479 1000

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers.
Early registration is encouraged
Growing Abundance, a local not for profit, food focused community project, began operating the school canteen in 2013. Passionate about fresh, seasonal and local food, community building is at our heart. Thanks to the fantastic support we received from this school community, we are back again in 2014.

FOCCACIAS DAILY
- Ham & Cheese $4.00
- Chicken, Cheese & Avocado (or Pesto) $4.00
- half focaccia $2.50

SANDWICHES DAILY
- Chicken, salad, homemade mayonnaise full serve $4.00
- 1/2 serve $2.50
- Ham, salad and cheese $4.00
- 1/2 serve $2.50

TOASTIES DAILY
- Cheese $2.00

MUFFINS/SLICES
- $1.50

DRINKS
- Harcourt Apple Juice $2.40
- Organic Orange Juice $2.80
- Portello $1.50
- 300mL Oak $2.00
- 600mL Oak $3.00
- Water $1.50
- Eff Drinks $2.00

SNACKS
- chips large $2.00
- chips small $1.00
- Butter Menthols $2.00
- Eucalyptus Drops $1.50

ICE CREAMS
- Choc billabong $1.50
- milo cup $2.80
- Frosty fruit $1.00
- Lemonade Icy Pole $1.00

Specials - MUST BE PRE ORDERED BEFORE SCHOOL OR AT RECESS
All specials made fresh daily with local, seasonal ingredients.
Freshly baked muffins and cakes daily.
There are often additional specials depending on what produce is available at market.

TUESDAY
- $2.50 Fresh spinach and ricotta fillos.

WEDNESDAY
- Hamburger full $4.00
- 1/2 serve $2.50

THURSDAY/FRIDAY
- Pesto and Cheese Pizza $3.00
- Ham and Cheese Pizza $3.50

Local organic lamb patties with lettuce, carrot, beetroot and cheese. In a sesame seed bun.
Sprout pizza base, homemade pesto, free range ham, warnabool cheese.