Welcome to everyone from the school community to the 2020 school year. Although our thoughts are with those families who have lost or supported others with the loss of property through what has been a very challenging summer break. I hope that everyone has had a safe break and is ready for the upcoming year.

The school year has started relatively smoothly, despite the additional fencing and works for the building program. We have welcomed a number of new students at various year levels. A special welcome must be extended to our 60+ Year 7 students and their families. They are all enjoying a great experience at the Bogong Outdoor School camp for 5 days this week. See our fb page for some photos of their week. Welcome to our exchange student, Julian Roque from Argentina, who joins us for 6 months.

Please let us know of students who may need support due to impact of fires, as we are not always aware of the wider family connections. The Department of Education has produced a number of resources to support families. These have been included in our newsletter below.

**BUILDING PROGRAM**  The works are well on their way for our new building. There may be some additional noise at times and a little more exercise moving around the school fenced areas over the year, but the final result will be well worth some minor inconvenience. Please check the fb page for photos of the works in progress over the year. An exciting time for BSC.

**Congratulations to our Dux from 2019, Matt Collins.** He has been accepted at University of Melbourne- Science, and is also a successful applicant for the Daffyd Lewis Scholarship. This will mean Matt can begin his studies with a scholarship of $10,000 each year, for 3 years of his study. This $30,000 support is supplemented with a non – residential scholarship for Ormond College. An outstanding opportunity of support for a rural student moving to Melbourne to study.

Over the January break, other students also made excellent use of their time- Liam McPherson applied for a fully sponsored place exploring the world of Maths and Science at Melbourne University over several days, while staying in a Residential Hall at Melbourne University. Indigo Walker-Stelling spent 5 days on a work experience placement in a recording studio with a sound Engineer, editing film soundtracks. A fantastic experience to assist him explore future pathway options available. These students are excellent examples of our students taking on the college value of ASPIRE.

Continued page 2......
Welcome to the following staff who have joined the team at Beechworth Secondary College:

Mr Luke Wakefield           Assistant Principal
Ms Rachael Castricum      Leading Teacher Curriculum – Teaching & Learning & VCE Art
Ms Ash Lawry                   Leading Teacher - Student Wellbeing & Engagement & PE
Ms Laura Cator                  Maths/Science - She is replacing Jo Houston who is on leave for 2020.
Ms Leanne Clarke              Admin/Reception

COLLEGE CONTACTS  Following is a list of key staff members within the school who you may contact regarding your child’s progress. Whilst every effort will be made to provide immediate contact, these staff members do have teaching allotments and may not always be available when you call or email through COMPASS. Please leave a message and they will contact you as soon as mutually convenient. Contact can be made by calling the office on 03 572 81624. These contacts are also listed in the student’s diaries.

KEY CONTACTS

SCHOOL LEADERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Patricia Broom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Luke Wakefield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Manager &amp; First Aid / Medical Management Plans</td>
<td>Liz Wilkinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Teacher - Curriculum</td>
<td>Rachael Castricum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Teacher – Engagement &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Ash Lawry</td>
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MINI SCHOOL LEADERS

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<tr>
<th>School Level</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior School 7 &amp; 8</td>
<td>Engagement &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Ingrid Barlagen &amp; Storme Bishop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Leader</td>
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<td>Chris White</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School 9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Engagement &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Lisa Kulane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Leader</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alastair Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior School 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Engagement &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>Ben Appleford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Leader</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alex Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAP – Montessori Adolescent Program</td>
<td></td>
<td>Laureen Barnard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Careers Advisor</td>
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<td>Anthea Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Distance Education</td>
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<td>Andrew Marshall</td>
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<td>Music Program</td>
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<td>Alex O’Connor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Support</td>
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<td>Jo Morrison</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY 2020 – BSC is on March 4th

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS:  School Council is the governing body of the college. We normally meet on the third Monday of the month, for about 2 1/2 hours. School council manages the finances of the college, sets strategy and direction, and structures the policy framework for the smooth operation of the college. Membership provides a great opportunity to be part of the college support and support the strategic direction of the college. Positions on the council are filled by parents, teachers, students and community representatives. In the parent category we have vacancies for positions which are of two year tenure.

In the student category we have a vacancy for a single position of two year tenure. You might like to take the time to talk to your child about being involved in this way. The schools has a long history of student involvement on school council – they are full members and have a significant input into the direction of the school. Nominations will close on Friday 21st February at 4pm, with elections to be held after this. Nomination forms will be available from the Front Office.
STARTING SECONDARY SCHOOL
I have included an article from Michael Gross which is directed to parents of new students. Starting secondary school can be a harder experience for some children, and helping them overcome anxiety is a key factor in promoting resilience skills. **Michael talks about the four P’s – promote friendships, practice patience, pursue a positive attitude and process their day.** I encourage you to go online and look at some of the resources available to parents there - [https://www.parentingideas.com.au/](https://www.parentingideas.com.au/)
Please contact the college promptly if you need support, or need to tell us something about your child. We always value the opportunity to work together with you, for the benefit of all the young people in our community.

CHILD SAFETY:
Beechworth Secondary College has a zero tolerance of Child Abuse. Child safety encompasses matters related to the protection of all children and young people from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse. Beechworth Secondary College supports and respects children and young people with a disability, and people of diverse cultures.
Child Safe Standards is legislation introduced by the Victorian Government which took effect from January 2017 and ensures organisations that deal with children have appropriate and consistent measures in place to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all organisations that provide services to children, including Victorian schools. The aim of the Standards is to ensure organisations are well prepared to protect children from abuse and neglect. Relevant information for parents and students can be found on our website or on COMPASS. Further information about Protect is to found later in this newsletter.
**The Child Safety Officer @BSC is Patricia Broom, Principal.**
I encourage you to contact me if you are concerned for the safety of any student.

HELPING YOUR VCE STUDENT:
Andrew Fuller is a child psychologist involved in the Resilient Youth Project, and well known for his work with adolescents. On his website, Andrew talks about the things that you can do to support VCE students. He particularly mentions the vital role that parents have to:
- manage time - manage energy - manage stress
- manage to get everything in at the right time and in the right place.
In addition to this you have to manage yourself.
When you have a teenager completing the senior years of school, everyone in the family is doing Year 11 or Year 12. I encourage you to have a read and take on board his tips for ‘flourishing, and having everyone’s dignity intact’.

ATTENDANCE - it’s NOT OK to be AWAY
Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better results, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behaviour and have a better chance of completing Year 12. But when students are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused— it can have a negative impact. Students who attend school regularly feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to complete Year 12, setting them up for a strong future.
**Parents are required to advise the College of student absences.**

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER
Beechworth Secondary College collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the School’s Privacy Policy. Please take time to remind yourself of the school’s collection statement, found on our website at: [www.bworth.sc.vic.edu.au](http://www.bworth.sc.vic.edu.au)
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MOBILE PHONES
The Minster for Education, The Honourable James Merlino announced that from 2020 Mobile phones will be banned in all government schools. The policy is being introduced because teachers and parents regularly raise concerns about the use of mobile phones during school hours as a cause of constant distraction in classrooms. Rolling out this state-wide policy will provide consistency for principals, teachers, students, parents and school communities. As part of this new policy, students must switch off their phones and store them securely from the moment they arrive on school grounds until they leave at the end of the day. Failure to abide by this regulation will result in a confiscation of the student phone. Students will be reminded regularly of the new arrangements and the College Mobile phone Policy will be available on the College website.

DET ADVICE
Counselling If at any time you are worried about your mental health or the mental health of a loved one, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. You can also contact:
• your doctor or local community health centre
• a counsellor or psychologist
• NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24.
• Parentline
• Beyond Blue
• Mensline Australia
• Kids Helpline
• Headspace

Supporting your child through emergency situations such as the recent fires. Some actions you may wish to consider to assist your child include:
• Provide a stable, predictable routine or explain what will happen next where routines need to change.
• Plan pleasurable activities. Find opportunities to connect with family and peers.
• Protect them from exposure to media coverage and adult conversations about the emergency.
• Allow children to ask questions and use developmentally appropriate explanations.
• If young people choose to recount an event through talking or play, listen to their experience away from others who may be affected.
• If you are concerned, seek support through local health care and relief services in your area.

The Emerging Minds Community Trauma Toolkit includes tips for helping children through a disaster or traumatic event.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PARENTS VISITING THE COLLEGE
We request that all parents when attending the College, report to the General Office in the first instance. As part of the Department of Education Child Safety Standards, parents are not permitted to go into classrooms or corridors at any time without school staff, with or without their child. The Office staff will be happy to assist you with any enquiries. Thanks you for your support in this important matter.
CSEF 2020
If you applied for the CSEF at Beechworth Secondary College in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. The school will automatically apply for the CSEF on your behalf. You will only need to submit an application form in 2020 if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**: your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply at the same school in a previous year
- **changed family circumstances**: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or **new siblings commencing at the school in 2020**.

Schools are able to accept and process applications up until the end of Term 2 each year. CSEF payments are made to schools from March onwards each year.

The payment is $225 per year for eligible secondary school students. To be eligible, on the first day of Term 1 (29 January 2020) or the first day of Term 2 (14 April 2020), a parent or legal guardian of a student must be an eligible beneficiary of one of these cards:

- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans Affairs Gold Card
- they must be a temporary foster parent

Application forms are available at the General Office.

TERM 1 SUNSMART.
A reminder that BSC is a Sunsmart School, and so in Term 1 ALL students are required to wear College hats (or another plain broad brim type hat) when outside. Hats can be purchased at the college uniform shop.

Terrence Broom Principal
APPENDIX A

FACT SHEET 1. SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected DET employee member category** – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.
- **A small number of school councils have Nominee members.**

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected Student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SCHOOL COUNCILLORS

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004. School councillors must abide by the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)
- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).
Introducing our School Captains
Keeley, Olivia, Indigo and Owen

Hi everyone!
Welcome back to another school year! And for my fellow Year 12s, it’s our final year so amongst all the stress, please enjoy yourselves as much as you can. I hope everyone had a chance to relax over summer and stayed safe from the fires. This year I’m very excited to be your School Captain alongside Owen, Olivia and Indigo. I plan to represent the school and its students as best as I can, so if anyone has any concerns or ideas please don’t hesitate to come and talk to any of us.

Keeley Morrison - School Captain

Don’t forget to wear your House Colours!

BUFFALO yellow
BOGONG red
HOTHAM blue

BEECHWORTH SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERHOUSE SWIMMING 2020

FRIDAY 21st FEBRUARY
BEECHWORTH SWIMMING POOL

- Normal classes will run Period 1
- All students will assemble at school and walk down to the pool in form groups
- Traditional events and the famous Hoola Hoop contest, Irish Relay, Cork/Golf ball scrambles and Tunnel Ball relays
- Parents welcome to attend
- School buses will pick up bus students at the Beechworth Pool at 3:30pm
- Town students will be dismissed from the pool
- Buffalo are the defending champion house

STUDY HUB

Tuesday
Beechworth Secondary College Library
3.40 - 4.40pm

Wednesday
Yackandandah Primary School
(In the building closest to the bus stop.)
5:00 - 6:00pm

See Mr Barnard for more information
Hi everyone and welcome to Term 1, 2020! I hope you all had a restful time over the summer break.

**Bushfires:**
There has been lots of bushfire activity in the region which has either directly or indirectly impacted almost everyone and may continue to do so for some time yet. It has been a devastating and stressful time. Please know that the wellbeing team at BSC is here to support anyone who needs it. If you would like to pop in for a chat to either myself or Mel, then please feel free to do so.

Some additional support contact details are:

- Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800 or kidshelp.com.au
- Headspace: 1800 650 890 or eheadspace.org.au

If you are a parent or carer of a student at BSC that has been directly impacted by the bushfires this season, then you could be eligible for financial support that can be accessed through the Department of Education to help purchase items for the new school year. If you would like more details please contact me through the school.

Whilst air quality can still be unpredictable during this time, here are some helpful tips to keep healthy and avoid becoming unwell:

- If you can see or smell smoke, it’s advisable to remain indoors wherever possible
- Keep your windows and doors shut
- Switch your air conditioner to ‘recirculate’
- Air out your house when the smoke clears
- Look out for young children, older people, and others at risk
- Keep pets inside with clean water and food. Keep pets’ bedding inside if possible.
- If you suffer from respiratory conditions such as asthma, avoid over exertion and keep your reliever inhaler with you at all times.

If air quality is poor during school times, then further instructions will be given to all parents and students by Ms Broom and Mr Wakefield, as necessary.

**Coronavirus 2019-nCoV:**
As many of you may have read and heard, there is currently an outbreak of novel coronavirus that started in a region in China at the end of last year and has been fatal in a number of instances. Whilst cases have mainly been reported within China, there are now multiple cases of the virus confirmed in several regions around the world, including Australia, and has now been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organisation. Therefore, vigilance is key, to prevent further spreading and fatalities.

**What we know so far:**

The virus is a new strain not seen before. It has most likely been contracted from animals, however there is now enough evidence to suggest it can be transmitted from human to human. At present, no cure has been found but several countries are working towards providing a vaccination for it.

**Symptoms:**

Symptoms can include:
- Fever
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of breath

Whilst for most healthy individuals these symptoms won’t be life threatening, groups of people such as the elderly, the young and those with pre-existing respiratory medical conditions are more at risk of the illness become life threatening.

**What to do:**

If you are currently asymptomatic (no symptoms and feeling fine) then it’s business as usual. Make sure you wash your hands regularly with soap, sneeze into the crook of your arm or a tissue and dispose immediately and always cover your mouth when coughing.

If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms (but have not travelled to China recently) then it’s best to seek medical attention from your local GP and avoid public spaces until the symptoms improve. The symptoms are similar to a common cold or influenza but still require precautionary measures until the all-clear has been given.

Australia has recently changed its protocol with managing individuals who have travelled to China. As such any individual returning from China will be automatically quarantined off shore until they are deemed asymptomatic, to prevent contagion. If you have travelled to China and returned recently and not gone through quarantine then you need to obtain advice from your nearest health service or the Department of Health dedicated hotline on: 1800 675 398.

Equally, if you are suffering from any of the above symptoms since returning to Australia a P2 mask must be applied and medical attention from either a local GP or emergency department is required ASAP.

If you have any more questions or concerns relating to this, then please contact me through the school. This is a developing public health situation and so public information is subject to change at any time.

I look forward to working with all the students again this year in your health classes and getting to know all the new Year 7’s over the coming weeks! A reminder to all that my new office is located opposite the Food Tech room, so pop in and say hello.

Sarah Williams
Adolescent Health Nurse.
SECOND HAND BOOKS FOR SALE 2020 as at 05/2/2020

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<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Number of copies</th>
<th>FULL RRP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maths 7-old edition</td>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford Science 9</td>
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<td>The Simple Gift</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Kenalilah Indonesia 2  textbook</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Food Solutions Units 1 &amp; 2 Fourth edition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialist Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>In cold blood (brand new copy)</td>
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<td>Psychology 1/2</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Solutions 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge Further Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology ¾ 3rd edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracks (English novel- brand new)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Like a house on fire (English novel-Brand new)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Golden Age (Brand new)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

These books are available for sale on a “first in first paid” cash basis from the BSC Library. For information about these second hand texts that are on the Booklist for 2020, please contact Andrea Browne in the Library on 03 57281264.

The Library is only selling these leftover titles that are on the 2020 Booklist. You can list other books through www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au. We also have also created a Facebook Page listing 2nd hand books for BSC called BSC Second Hand Text Books Buy/Sell.

*a few photos from the Year 7 Bogong Camp ...*
**Spring Creek - Yr 10 Outdoor Ed**

The Year 10 Outdoor Ed class had their first excursion this week walking down into the gorge to explore Spring Creek. Students are learning about the variety of environments in Australia and the factors that influence the type of environments that occur in different locations. The group were all very enthusiastic and well behaved throughout the day which lead to a productive learning space in the outdoors.

Ben Appleford

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**Wellbeing**

Hello everyone a big welcome back!

Wow 2020 has started with a big bang! The things happening in our community, in our nation and in our school! In these times we have seen the absolutely best of people and unfortunately the worst. There is great change occurring and a lot of new...

On returning to school we have experienced some wild heat and the fencing off of sections and demolition of our old buildings. It has been wonderful to connect with students, staff and our families after the holidays. I have witnessed students show great kindness and awareness, support for each other, caring for the new year 7’s and guiding them. It’s been a challenging time and students have been wonderful with their ideas and enthusiasm to contribute and make a difference. The SRC have had their first meeting and I’m excited to see how they grow in their roles and the impact they have. The first project I will be working on in partnership with these students will be to raise money for Blaze Aid. We will be selling Zooper Doopers on Fridays at Lunch time for 50 cents, with a pop up store on the hot hot days – 40’s. This will begin next week Friday the 15th.

The garden survived the heat over the holidays. It certainly needs some care and tending. We have students keen to keep this little pocket looking bright and cheery.

Please take care of yourself, summer is not over yet. The impact of the fires and what we have experienced this summer can have ongoing impacts. Please connect with the school if you are wanting support, we can assist and link you in with other services. I am grateful to be a part of this community and to see the community come together. Seeing the Wooragee CFA volunteers running a sausage sizzle to raise money on the long weekend – you LEGENDS!! and the garage sales in town where all the money went to Blaze Aid – WOW!! People thinking of others and being there for them. It’s beautiful and it works.

Mel Ivone  
School Social Worker

At school Monday, Thursday and Friday. Please call the main office if you are wanting to get in contact.
Congratulations Tiahn on being awarded the Emma George Sporting Scholarship for her achievements in Equestrian.

Australia Day Awards 2020

Acceptance Speech - Emma George Sporting Scholarship 2020

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Dudhuroa people, and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

On this day, a date which holds a deep contention in my heart and the hearts of many of our indigenous brothers and sisters, and a day that follows a summer that has presented its unnerving challenge to recognise and respond to our changing climate, I stand here humbled and honoured to receive such an award. I stand amidst a community that is growing together and facing an uncertain future with resolve. And for me, that is what it is largely about – a resolve for the future. My future in my career, in my sport and our future as a community.

Equestrian can often be a solo affair and while I am ambitious and want to achieve to the highest level in my sport, it is not at the expense of the community around me – it is as a part of it. Without the contributions big and small, this adventure would go nowhere. I believe it’s the community created and the contribution to it that means more than the blue ribbons and medals ever will.

The ways in which my family have helped me to get to where I am today, and who will support me on the path for tomorrow no doubt, are immeasurable. From the bottom of my heart I extend my deepest gratitude - I can’t do this without you. I will be spending the scholarship on a safety airvest so that I can be more assured of returning home safely after each event, and so that your mind can be more at ease with my participation in what can sometimes be a dangerous sport.

Thank you to the Indigo Shire, to our great Mayor Jenny O’Connor and CEO Trevor Ierino for the honour and for showing such wonderful support. My coaches to whom I am indebted, in particular the amazing Tania Harding who makes this journey possible, thank you. To my small team of 4-legged athletes – Nova, Bee and King you are my rock and my insanity and I love you. To everyone who has shared words of encouragement and support on my journey so far – I thank you too.

Tiahn Barnard

Olivia's Food Van

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Large Sausage Roll $6
Large Spinach & Cheese Sausage Roll $7
Egg and Lettuce Roll $5
Pork, Coleslaw & Mayo Roll $6
Schnitzel, Coleslaw, Lettuce & Mayo Roll $8
Raspberry Muffins $4
Brownies $3
Lemon Balls $1

Drinks
Softdrink Cans $3
Local Billsons Sodas $4

Please get behind this local business and support Olivia
SCHOOLS’ PRIVACY POLICY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - FOR PARENTS

The Schools’ Privacy Policy informs the school community that information about students can be shared to fulfil the schools’ core functions of educating and supporting our students.

The Schools’ Privacy Policy establishes a clarified ‘need to know’ framework, where school staff share information about students with other staff who need to know as part of their role. This is consistent with Victorian privacy law.

Who does the policy apply to?
The policy applies to all central, regional and school staff including principals, teachers, visiting teachers, social workers, wellbeing staff, youth workers, nurses, Student Support Service officers (SSSOs) and all other allied health practitioners. This means the ‘need to know’ framework below also applies to all school staff, whether employees, service providers (contractors) and agents (whether paid or unpaid) of the Department.

Need to know
All school staff can, and must, share information about a student with other staff who ‘need to know’ that information to enable the school to:

1. educate the student (including to plan for individual needs or address barriers to learning)
2. support the student’s social and emotional wellbeing and health
3. fulfil legal obligations, including to:
   - take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to the student, other students, staff or visitors (duty of care)
   - make reasonable adjustments for a student’s disability (anti-discrimination law)
   - provide a safe and secure workplace (occupational health and safety law).

Who decides who ‘needs to know’?
Subject to the principal’s direction, each staff member decides who needs to know specific, relevant information about a student, based on the ‘need to know’ framework.

Sharing relevant information with other staff who ‘need to know’ is very different from idle conversation or gossip.

School staff are entrusted with a large amount of important information about students. Staff must treat all such personal and health information sensitively and respectfully, and not share it other than on this ‘need to know’ basis.
What information and records can be transferred to a student’s next Victorian government school?

When a student has been accepted at another Victorian government school, the current school can provide personal and health information about the student to that next school.

This can occur in, any, and all, of the following ways:

- **verbally**: principal to principal (or authorised representatives).
- **on paper**: by providing copies of the student’s records (including any health reports) to that next school
- **electronically**: including through the CASES21 transfer function; the Student Online Case System (SOCS) and/or via email.

Principals (or authorised representatives) determine what information to provide to that next Victorian government school based on the ‘need to know’ framework:

_What information does the next school ‘need to know’ to properly educate or support the student, and fulfil the school’s legal obligations?_

**‘NEED TO KNOW’ framework**

**Duty of care**

A school’s duty of care to students means that a principal or other member of the leadership team needs to know about any reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to anyone because of the student’s behaviour, disability, family circumstances or any other relevant circumstances related to the student.

So, for example, if there is a reasonably foreseeable risk to anyone because the student:

- displays violent behaviours
- is a victim or perpetrator of bullying, assault or age-inappropriate sexualised behaviours
- has emotional, wellbeing or self-harm issues

then staff must **tell the principal** (or other member of the school leadership team).

The principal will then share relevant information with any other staff member that needs to know because they work with, or supervise, the student. Staff must provide the principal with enough relevant information required to adequately fulfil their own duty of care – so that the principal can fulfil their duty of care too.

Importantly, when there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of harm, staff should act on that information and share the information with other staff who ‘need to know’, even if the student or parent asks that information not be shared.

**Anti-discrimination law**

A school’s obligation to provide reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities (regardless of whether they are eligible under the Program for Students with Disabilities) means that relevant information about a student’s disability and their needs must be shared with all staff who work with or supervise that student.

This is required to enable the school to make properly informed decisions about what adjustments are reasonable, and then to implement those adjustments.

This may also be required to meet the duty of care to that student (for example, a student with a medical condition who may require treatment).

This means that relevant information must be shared with staff who work with or supervise that student, to enable them to:

- understand the student’s disability and how it affects their learning and social or emotional wellbeing
- implement reasonable adjustments at school, including understanding all recommendations made by the student’s treating practitioners.

The relevant school policies are followed by school staff when engaging with parents, such as wellbeing and behavior polices. Go to your school’s website for relevant polices.

School staff are available to provide further information about school policies and handling of personal information or contact the DET Privacy Officer at privacy@edumail.vic.gov.au.
Making a smooth start to secondary school

Getting used to new subjects and new teachers, as well as forming new friendships are just some of the requirements of this period.

Starting secondary school is a time of change and uncertainty, which places new demands on young people. Being at the bottom of the pecking order where they are unsure of the playground hierarchies is just one adjustment that they need to make.

Some kids take these new experiences in their stride but it is natural to experience some difficulty, particularly when it’s accompanied by the potentially unsettling transition from childhood to adolescence. It’s no coincidence that many research projects indicate that children’s learning levels fall out in the transition year, presumably because the social tasks of adjustment take precedence over academic performance.

It helps to remember the Four P’s to help your young person settle in:

1. **Promote friendships:** The quicker kids form new friendships the sooner they’ll feel comfortable in their secondary school surroundings. Encourage your young person to be open to forming friendships with all sorts of kids; to be accepting of others who may be different to them; to take social risks by joining in activities even though they may feel uncomfortable; and to be friendly, approachable and positive!

2. **Practice patience:** Patience and understanding in the early weeks is essential. Brush up on your listening skills as you help your young person adjust. Talk to your young person about change and reassure them that it is normal to feel unsure or nervous in new circumstances. Let them know that many difficulties they face will be temporary.

3. **Pursue a positive attitude:** Confidence is catching so make sure you see this transition time as an exciting challenge that your child can handle rather than an event to be feared. Ask them about the new subjects or interesting activities they are doing, and try to shift their focus to the positive aspects of school. Discuss settling in issues with the appropriate person such as a year level coordinator, but give your young person time to handle them on their own before seeking help.

4. **Process their day:** Some young people may come home with fairly exaggerated accounts of secondary school and may not always paint a fair picture. They may become sensitive to things that they might have shrugged off in primary school. Listen without judgment and show a real interest in their new school, while providing them with the space they need to get away for a while. Expect some behaviour blowouts as many kids let off steam in the relatively safe and stable environment of a loving family.

If your eldest is starting, then secondary school will be a relatively new experience for you too. It will take some time for you to adjust to the school’s culture and communication methods.

Although secondary schools may seem a little foreign for those used to the relative intimacy of primary schools, one aspect is the same – outcomes for students are maximised when schools and parents work together in the best interests of the student.

One way to support your young person’s school is by actively promoting the school’s values. For instance, if respect is a prominent school value then you can discuss this in relation to the way your young person behaves around friends, relatives and family.

Most importantly, talk up your young person’s new school, rather than talk it down, as kids of all ages take their cues from the most significant adults in their lives – their parents!
Feeling Safe: For Secondary School Students

Get the facts
This fact sheet has been designed to give you the facts about child abuse. It includes advice on what to do if you have been abused, are being abused, or are at risk of being abused. This fact sheet also provides you with advice if you know someone who has been abused, or is at risk of being abused.

What are your rights?
- Everyone has the right to feel safe and be protected from abuse.
- No one is allowed to threaten you, hurt you, or touch you in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or afraid.
- This includes all adults, other teenagers and children – it includes everyone from family members, coaches, teachers, to friends and strangers.
- Every relationship should be respectful.
- No one should ever involve you in sexual activity without your consent, and no one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid.
- You don't have to deal with abuse on your own. Talk to a trusted adult. Teachers and other adults at your school can support you to get help.

What is child abuse?
- Child abuse includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological harm, neglect, and family violence.
- Child abuse can also include grooming. This is behaviour where an adult tries to establish a relationship or other emotional connection with a child, to prepare them for a sexual relationship.
- Child abuse does not have to involve physical contact or force. It can include:
  - controlling a child through threats
  - exposing a child to sexual material and sexual acts
  - exposing a child to family violence.
- Child abuse can be perpetrated by anyone member of a community or a family member. Abuse can impact anyone and it is never the victim's fault.

What should I do if I have been abused or I feel unsafe?
- You should talk to an adult you trust.
- If you have been abused, or feel unsafe or threatened in any way you don't have to deal with this on your own.
- Abuse is never your fault and you should tell a trusted adult so you can get the help and support you need to feel safe and protected. Talking to someone won't get you in trouble.
- You can tell a teacher or any adult at your school. They will be able to help you.

What should I do if I think someone I know has been abused or is unsafe?
- You should talk to an adult you trust. Any staff member at your school will be able to help.
- You can also help your friend by encouraging them to tell a trusted adult.

What if my friend doesn't want to tell an adult?
- You should still tell an adult you trust on your friend's behalf.
- Even if your friend has specifically asked you not to tell an adult, you still should. It is more important to make sure that your friend is helped and feels protected.

What will happen if I tell an adult at the school that I feel unsafe, or that I know someone who is unsafe?
- You will be helped.
- Teachers and other adults at your school must listen to your concerns and help you.
- The information will not be shared with the person who is making you feel unsafe.
- Information will only be shared with people who can support and protect you.
- In some cases the people helping you are required by law to tell the police, the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection services and/or your family to prevent any further abuse, or risk of abuse.

What if I don't feel like I can talk to anyone at my school?
- You should still find a trusted adult to talk to.
- Abuse or feeling uncomfortable is too big to deal with on your own.

There are many people who can support you to feel safe and protected. You can:
- contact eHeadspace for advice online visit: www.eheadspace.org.au/
  Call 1800 650 890
- Call or visit your local police station or call 000.
- Talk to your doctor, psychologist, social worker, welfare officer, or another trusted adult.
Demolition of the old building has begun.