



Welcome back to all students old and new. I particularly wish to welcome all new parents to the college who have their first child starting with us.

I can report that the students at all year levels have commenced the year in a most positive fashion. Their conduct and uniform have been exemplary. Likewise I have walked through classes at all year levels and students are working very hard with a determined focus.

We have a number of new staff at the college this year that I introduced at sub-school assemblies on the first day. They are Ms Jacqui Smith (Leading Teacher, Maths & Science), Mr Luke Tyson (Maths & Science), Ms Clair Spencer (Maths & Science), Mr Warren Cooke (Arts), Ms Kara Dunstan (Science and Health Ed/PE) and Mr Matthew Bodley (School Chaplain).

Over the holidays an extensive amount of work was undertaken, some of which is nearly completed. We have developed a shade area in the rear courtyard for VCE students, there is extensive outdoor furniture made by Mr Uren, new computers through most parts of the college, new Library furniture, a number of new data projectors and Smartboards, new Welfare/Student Support offices and new lockers at all year levels.

You will have noticed extensive work being undertaken constructing a new bus bay and car park. While this has been slightly delayed, the end result will have a safer drop off zone for your children. Likewise the refurbishment of the Arts Centre is a little behind schedule but will be well worth the wait!

Finally I have made my expectations very clear to the students that we require maximum effort in all areas of school life. We will not tolerate any student stopping the learning of others or interrupting teaching from taking place. I have made it very clear to the students that they need to be here at school in full uniform each day and at school on time. Your cooperation with these matters is appreciated.

Simon Hamilton
Principal

Important Dates

Term 1 2008

FEBRUARY

February 13 th	Senior Summer Sport
February 14/15	Year 12 Camp
February 19	Intermediate Sport
February 21	House Swimming
February 26	Year 8 Sport
	Year 7,9,10 Gardasil immunisation
	Year 7 Hep B immunisation
February 29 – 2/3	HPV Wonthaggi



MARCH

March 4	School Photos
March 6	Beacon Breakfast
March 7	Year 7 Summer Sport
	Year 12 Monash Peninsula
March 12	Open Night
March 14	District Swimming
March 17-19	Year 7 Camp
March 20	Year 12 Easter Breakfast
	Last day of term

Information from the Business Manager:

Thankyou to the families who have already paid their accounts with the school.

All the Invoices were posted to you at the end of last year, with details of due dates and requirements for the various courses your children have chosen to study. You will receive the first Statement of Account in the last week of February.

Payment Dates to Remember

Payment for the programs below are due:

Pre – App: 7th February 2008
VET: Balance Due 28th Feb
Electives: February 28th
Year 7 Camp: Balance Due Friday 29th Feb
Year 12 Camp: Balance Due Wednesday 6th Feb

Auto Deductions for Credit Card Payments: 22nd March
22nd June
22nd September

Queensland Camp: Deposits taken

EMA: Applications Close Friday 29th Feb

All Organizer Kit and Locker Hire Payments should be paid by now.

Materials Charges: are due to be paid in full by February 28th

Please make an appointment with me if you wish to discuss the above financial commitments.

Margaret Jolly
Business Manager

School Council Elections 2008

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider
standing for election as a member of the school council
encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Call for Nominations	Monday 11 February
Closing date for nominations	Wednesday 20 February
Candidates Names displayed	Friday 22 February
Distribution of ballot papers	Wednesday 27 February
Close of ballot	Wednesday 5 March.