DATES TO REMEMBER

March
10th - Labour Day (PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
13th - Primary Divisional Swimming Carnival (Werribee Outdoor Pool)
    - Year 9 Incursion
14th - Secondary Divisional Swimming Carnival (Werribee Outdoor Pool)
    - Year 9 Robotics Pathway Excursion
17th -21st - PCC CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK
19th - College Council Meeting 7pm
20th - Year 7 Summer Sport
21st - Year 7 Girls and Boys Immunization and Year 9 Boys Immunizations (11.20am-12.20pm)

Principal News.

School Council Elections.
The last newsletter advised that “Notice of Election and Call for Nominations” for our College Council were sent out and closed on Monday 24th February. The College has received 4 nominations for 2 parent member vacancies and as a result we will be conducting a ballot. The eldest child in each family will have received an envelope with 2 Ballots (one for each parent) and a brief introduction from each parent nominating. If you are a single parent family you are to only return 1 ballot. Please take note of the following timelines for the remainder of the process.

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Principal’s News Continued...

A ballot box will be available in the office foyer or you can post it ‘Attention to the Principal.’

Disabled Car Parks
Unfortunately I need to again remind certain members of the school community that the allocated disabled car parks in both staff car parks on Ponsford Drive and Tom Roberts Parade are only for the disabled. We have a number of families with disabled children who rely on these car parks. It is against the law to park in disabled car parks without a disabled tag. I thank you for your support.

Cultural Diversity Week.
Excitement is definitely building as we get closer to ‘Cultural Diversity Week’ Beginning Monday 17th March. All teams are working hard to ensure each student is involved in a range of activities to celebrate multicultural Australia. The College has a strong tradition of doing an absolutely fantastic job with whole school events and ‘Cultural Diversity Week’ won’t be any different. Please ensure you return all the required notes by the due dates to ensure your children don’t miss the activities.
Assistant Principals’ News

P-4 COMMUNITY

The excitement around the upcoming Cultural Diversity week is beginning to build, with many students taking advantage of the opportunity to order the special lunches that were on offer. Teachers have been working hard to organize special events and activities including visiting performers, art, craft and cooking sessions, so it is certainly going to be a busy but exciting time for all involved. It is also an opportunity to raise awareness and celebrate the unique aspects of the various cultures that make Australia and PCC such a diverse and enriched community.

We are fortunate to have been in receipt of a grant that has allowed us to subsidise some of the costs for the week. This has meant that we have only needed to pass on a minimal charge of $10 per child to parents to cover all of these events and activities. If you have not paid this charge please do so as soon as possible as we would be disappointed to have students miss out on participation in any of these fun activities and events. Please note that this payment has no connection to lunch order payments already made.

Congratulations to all of the Years 4 to 6 students who participated in the Swimming Carnival On Wednesday at The Werribee Outdoor Pool. Although the day was a little on the cool side when the heat was on our students rose to the challenge giving it their best and competing with the Point Cook College spirit and enthusiasm we have come to expect. Everyone had a great day and along with the beaming faces, as an added bonus there were many blue, red and green ribbons collected along the way. A special thank you to the PE team for their organisation and to the staff, parents and grandparents that went along to supervise and cheer them on.

Contact Information

There have been a number of instances that have arisen where we have been unable to get in touch with parents or emergency contacts because phone numbers are either unavailable or no longer in operation. If any of your contact details have changed please contact the office to rectify the problem.

Principal’s News Continued...

School Photos

A reminder that school photos are scheduled for Monday 31st March. Information about family portraits will be sent home soon. Each student will receive an individual envelope.

Fire alarm evacuations.

Your children might have come home and informed you that we have had yet again another false alarm emergency evacuation. This is in fact true, the third for this year.

Unfortunately in all these instances the alarms have been triggered by children who have pressed emergency panels located across the school. The panels are necessary and comply with building and safety codes.

We have spoken to all students and explained the consequences of such actions and ask that you reiterate these at home.

- Once the alarm is activated we have no idea whether it is a false alarm or in fact a real fire so we instantly enact our emergency plan and evacuate the entire college. This is extremely disruptive and causes anxiety to some members of the college.
- The fire services are instantly dispatched to the school to investigate. Once they are dispatched they must come and investigate. There is a possibility that our false alarms are using resources that might be needed in a real emergency.
- The cost of Fire Brigade coming to a false alarm are expediency and borne by the college. Again a waste of resources.

We understand that children are inquisitive, however all students have been informed that any further instances will be dealt with seriously.

Labour Day Public Holiday

A reminder that next Monday 10th of March is a Public Holiday and the College will be closed. Classes will resume on Tuesday 11th March.

I wonder how many students know the meaning of Labour Day? Why don’t you ask your children to research it and let you know.

Regards
Frank Vetere
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principals' News Continued...

**Anaphylaxis Reminder**
As mentioned in last week’s newsletter we have increasing numbers of Anaphylactic students who have severe, and in some cases life threatening, reactions to products such as nuts and eggs. In some cases even coming into contact with traces of these foods can trigger the reaction causing great concern for not only the student, but also their parents and teachers. Notes have been sent home to some classes where Anaphylaxis is an issue advising parents of the risk and asking that you refrain from sending the foods mentioned. On behalf of the parents of the students affected we would greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

**Bike Helmets**
All students riding to school are required to wear a properly fitted bike helmet and from school as a matter of safety. If your child does not have a bike helmet they will be asked to leave their bike at home until the issue is rectified.

**Parent Tips**
Parents often ask how they can assist their child’s learning at home. Over the year we will be including articles and information that we think you will find useful. This week’s newsletter contains some ideas of how you can help your child with Reading and Maths. Watch this space in upcoming newsletters and on the website for other ideas.

**TAKE HOME READING**
All of the children participate in structured reading sessions daily at school. The aim is for the children to develop the skills required to be an Independent Reader. **The books that are in your child’s folder have been selected by your child.**

Reading at home should be enjoyable. If it is becoming too stressful for your child (or you!) then stop. Try again another time, or if needed come and speak to your child’s teacher for advice.

Assistant Principals' News Continued...

**Some great tips for reading at home:**

- Choose a time when your child can read together with an adult.
- Find a quiet and comfortable place. Make sure that the focus is on the book and not on other things around the room.
- Discuss the book that your child has brought home. Talk about the story and/or features of the text.
- At school we use language like: author, illustrator, title, fiction, non-fiction, contents, etc.

**The types of books your child might bring home:**

- **Books that the child has brought home many times** – it is important to cherish these books and encourage your child to read and re-read them. This means that your child feels comfortable with the book and enjoys reading it. We are really trying to encourage a love of reading and this also promotes fluency, expression and confidence.

- **Books that are too easy.** These books also have been selected by your child because they feel confident and comfortable reading them.

- **Books that are just right.** These books will allow your child to demonstrate competence and feel comfortable with an element of challenge. We are trying to encourage children to select just right books at school and use these during reading sessions.
**Assistant Principal’s News Continued…**

**MATHEMATICS - HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME**

**How do children learn to count and use numbers?**

One of the first experiences children have with numbers is “counting”. Counting starts as learning a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme. As children’s counting develops, they begin to relate the words to a quantity or number of things.

Children learn the pattern of counting words by repetition. Initially, this pattern may have gaps where the child leaves out a number in the sequence, or the child may invent numbers. It is common to hear a child say twenty-ten after counting to twenty nine. However, remembering the words for each number in the correct order is only part of the process of counting. To “count” children need to match saying the number words with the correct number of “things.”

Children should be given lots of opportunities to practise and explore counting groups, as well as, making groups. Children also need to recognise and name numbers.

**What can you do at home?**

- Count with your child - the number of steps from the front door to the letterbox, the number of eggs in a carton, the number of times you and your child can throw a ball to each other without dropping it.

- Read and talk about stories and rhymes that use numbers.

- Sing songs and nursery rhymes that include numbers such as Five Little Ducks.

- Have your child count as far as he or she is able to and then encourage your child to join you while you continue counting.

- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one. This will help them when they need to add two groups together and can start counting from the larger group.

**Middle Years Teaching and Learning**

Now that students have settled into their new classes it is the perfect time to introduce you to a few other people in the Middle Years Team.

Mr Frank Vetere, Assistant Principal Educational Leadership, is responsible for all aspects of our Middle Years community. He leads our work in student wellbeing and welfare, he is the strategic leader of our teaching and learning programs and he is responsible for setting our future directions. He has a passion for a student centred school – where each individual is known, understood and grows as a whole person, including as a learner. You will see this approach reflected across the College.

Ms Bern Cronin, Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning, leads our Middle Years community in developing and delivering programs that meet the diverse learning needs of our students. She works with all of our homeroom teachers to create rich learning programs, leads analysis of assessments to determine what students know and plans with our teams so that students are taught at their point of need. Her study into Middle Years learning and teaching ensures that we are informed by current research in the education of adolescents.

Mr Jeff Wilson, Leading Teacher – English, is our literacy guru and is working with teachers and students on ensuring the right books get to the right kids! Developing bigger and broader classroom libraries across the Middle Years and focussing on increasing the volume of independent reading across the learning programs are just two parts of his work.
Assistant Principals’ News Continued...

Mr Kevin Roberson, Leading Teacher – Mathematics, is our numeracy man and works with our teams to develop our students’ maths skills, knowledge and understanding. He works with teachers and students to support students who are having trouble with maths as well as those who are excelling.

We are ably supported in our work by our Team Leaders: Mrs Julie Ryan (Year 5), Ms Lisa Allen (Year 6), Mr David Simpson (Year 7), Mrs Alison Farrugia (Year 8) and Ms Megan Blackman (Year 9). We all look forward to working with your students, and you, this year and in the years to come.

A few reminders:

- All years in the Middle Years have published their Teaching and Learning Snapshot for Term 1 that outlines content being taught across the curriculum. Please read.
- All years also use a Blog to share information, to document Home Learning, store notes etc. Please ensure you are accessing these regularly – better yet sign up to one and get emails when items are added.

If you have any questions about teaching and learning in the Middle Years please speak with your child’s homeroom teacher or Ms Bern Cronin.

P.E & SPORT NEWS

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA- ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL STATE TEAMS

Each year School Sport Victoria (SSV) encourage all schools across Victoria to develop and deliver a sport trial process for primary students aged from 10, 11 & 12 to ultimately gain entry into SSV under 12 State Sports Teams. Physical Education Teachers and panels of experienced sports athletes work together to deliver a series of trials where students are asked to display skills and talents within their sport.

The sports that are trialled through this process are: Tennis (mixed), Basketball (mixed), AFL Football (boys), Soccer (mixed), Netball (mixed)

The first part of the process is a College Trial conducted with our PE Team and experienced staff during lunchtime. From this trial a small amount of students will then be asked to attend a District Trial and trial against other students within our School District boundaries. If successful here they go onto a Divisional Trial then a Regional Trial and ultimately State Team.

It is a very competitive process and is for students that are experienced at playing at club or rep level outside school.

If your child is interested in trialling in any of these sports and is born in 2002, 2003,2004 and has experience they are welcome to attend our initial school trial. These will be conducted at lunchtime as outlined below:

- **Tuesday 11th March - Tennis**
- **Monday 31st March - AFL**
- **Tuesday 1st April - Netball**
- **Wednesday 2nd April - Basketball**
- **Thursday 3rd April - Soccer**

Successful students will be notified in writing with details of the District Trial.

Please note students must be available for the trial to enable to progress to the next level. All Trials are conducted after school hours at various locations within our district.

**If you require any further information please contact a member of the PE Team.**
**PE News Continued...**

**CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS**

**Attention Years 4-9 students**

The P.E department will be conducting Cross Country Trials for years 4-9 students who would like to be considered for the Interschool Cross Country Teams. This will take place on Thursday 3rd April, during session 1 & 2 at school.

Please be aware that you will need to be in attendance on the day in order to be considered for the College Team. Students will be time trialled in the following age groups on the day:

- **10 Year Boys & 10 Year Girls - 2km**
- **11 Year Boys & 11 Year Girls - 3km**
- **12/13 Year Boys & 12/13 Year Girls - 3km**
- **Senior Girls & Boys – 3km**

6 students in each age group will be selected with 2 emergencies.

The Point Cook District Cross Country is scheduled for Thursday 8th May 2014.

Secondary Divisional Cross Country is scheduled for Monday 26th May 2014.

Please ensure your child is wearing the appropriate footwear and College Sports Uniform.

**Student Injury/In illness**

Recently we have had an increase in the number of students coming to us with injury or illness sustained outside of P.E sessions. As your child’s health and wellbeing is the upmost importance to us we ask that you please send a note to your child’s homeroom teacher outlining the issue, they will inform all relevant teachers so we can assist you in monitoring the situation and ensure a healthy and full recovery. We do our best to monitor these situations but would appreciate your assistance. If we are not advised about an illness/injury, it can become difficult for us to make a judgement regarding participation.

**Hats & Water Bottles**

Currently in P.E we are taking advantage of the good weather, however, we are still noticing some students are forgetting to bring hats and drink bottles to P.E & Sport sessions. These are essential in Term 1. Many of our students are practising athletics events and most weeks are outside - a long way from drink taps. Can you please assist us with this to ensure your child is able to fully participate in all sessions.

**Primary Interschool Swimming Carnival**

Congratulations to the 37 students who took part in the Primary Interschool Swim Carnival on Wednesday. This was the first year competing in the newly formed Point Cook District. Students competed against fellow students at Lumen Christi, Stella Maris and Alamanda K-9 College. With only 4 schools competing this year all students across the 4 schools were guaranteed ribbons. Next year will see the addition of 2 more schools and possibility of bringing back our school point system.

Special Thank you to all our parents that have helped us over the past few weeks at swim trials and carnivals. Thank you to Natalie Miller for assisting us with the results for the day.

Some of our students have qualified and made the Point Cook District team and will go onto the next level of competition. This is scheduled for Thursday 13th March at the Werribee Outdoor Pool. Parents are welcome to attend the day to cheer on our students. Our 9/10 girls, 11 girls and 11 boys relay teams will also be going through to the next level. Our 12/13 girls won on the day but were beaten by Carranballac College by 20 seconds and our girls medley team finished 1st however were also beaten by Carranballac College by 4 seconds. Carranballac College were unable to participate on the day and joined in the Laverton District Carnival. There times were recorded and taken into consideration for the Point Cook District Team.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to Sophia Potter & Reilly Yurkowski who both won the CHAMPIONSHIP race and now hold the title of the fastest female & male swimmers in the Point Cook District.
FUNDRAISING NEWS CONTINUED...

JUST A REMINDER Order forms will go home on a Wednesday and need to be returned by Friday, then the lunches will be distributed the following Friday. We have just been informed that the prices have increased also from $6.00 for a six inch to $6.50 and $9.00 to $9.50 for a foot long. We have been asked to pass along the price increase so that all the schools in the area will have a uniform price for ordering by Subway. As well as these changes they are now offering carrot as a salad item. New order forms with the changes will go out with the next order.

STUDENT BANKING

Please be advised that we will no longer be continuing with the tokens as the Commonwealth Bank has now automated their system and keeps track of student deposits. There will be a weekly report of deposits and when a student is eligible for a reward they will be contacted by the office and they can place their order then.

LIBRARY NEWS

Wyndham Libraries are running their annual LOUD IN THE LIBRARY event on March 19 at the Plaza Library. It is for 13-19 year olds. There will be a live DJ, gaming, manga demo food & drinks, prizes and giveaways and a special effect make-up artist. Special guests are Gabrielle Lord of CONSPIRACY 365 fame and Jenna Rosenow from Neighbours. This is a free event. For more info please phone 9748 9333.

At all Wyndham library branches is an online DIVERGENT trivia competition. It runs 3 February – 7 March. For ages 12-19. Enter online for your chance to win.

LAN parties are being held at Point Cook Library at the Town Centre. These are multiplayer gaming parties held monthly on Fridays at 4-5pm. The next one is Friday March 7, 4-5 pm. Wyndham Vale Library has a Teen Book to Movie Club. Werribee Library Runs an Imagination Creation Writers Group. Students can get help with homework at The Plaza Library Smith Family Learning Club.
YMCA NEWS

YMCA School Holiday Program – Book now!

YMCA Point Cook is running an Autumn School Holiday program with heaps of awesome activities, including Super Science, Collingwood Children’s Farm, Looking for clues, Junior Chefs and more! Bookings are now open, for full details and to book, visit: www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au.

PCC TRAFFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

I,_________________________________________ am interested in being a member of the PCC Traffic Sub-committee.

I can be contacted on PH:_________________________________________

       MOB:_________________________________________

       E-MAIL:_________________________________________

Signed_________________________________________ Dated_________________________________________

Loyalty Program

SERVICE: Trade pricing on all parts & service procedures on any vehicle excluding all capped priced service plans

SALES: When any Peter Davey Motor Company vehicle is purchased, customer will be given a $250 voucher that can be used for any purpose within the dealership. i.e.: Service, parts, car care and accessories. A further $200 will be donated to Point Cook P9 College for every vehicle purchased.