**IMPORTANT NEWS – PARENT PORTAL INFORMATION**

Access to your child’s Semester reports will now be via the newly established parent portal. Please read further information below.

**Principal News**

Earlier this year our Year 5-9 families received important information regarding the College website Parent Portal. The portal is the online facility that you will be asked to use to access your children’s reports and in the future, book in for parent teacher interviews and access specific information relevant to your children. The decision to move to the portal as an information hub directly aligns with the College principles of ‘Sustainability’ and ‘Creativity and Innovation.’

On Monday we will be distributing this information to our Year P-4 parents in the form of a letter containing a user name and password specific to your family. It is imperative that you read the letter carefully and keep it in a safe place for future reference. The Mid Year reports will be released via the portal on the first day of Term 3.

We are still awaiting new maps from DEECD outlining confirmation of our 2015 enrolment boundaries. Until the boundaries are received we cannot accept any enrolments other than those from within our local neighborhood or with siblings already at the College.

You will be advised of the new boundaries as soon as we receive the relevant advice from the Education Department.

This week we hosted a delegation of visitors from the New Zealand education system who are on a fact finding mission to learn more about Private-Public Partnership schools. The visitors were extremely impressed with the facilities, learning environment and positive tone around the College, feedback which our College community never tires of hearing.

NAPLAN assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 has been completed this week and all homerooms will now return to their regular Teaching and Learning programs. NAPLAN results are expected during Term 3 and will be distributed to parents once they arrive. Teachers are in the early stages of writing Mid Year reports which will give parents a detailed account of student progress in all curriculum areas and will form the basis of discussion at Term 3 Parent-Teacher interviews.
Assistant Principals’ Report

Mother’s Day has come and gone for another year and it was wonderful to have many mums, grandmas, aunts and sisters visiting our Prep – 2 homerooms to be celebrated and pampered by their appreciative children. Hopefully this theme continued into Sunday and that all of our mothers had a relaxing day. Thanks should also go to Gina O’Keefe and her wonderful helpers for ensuring our students had the opportunity to select a well chosen gift from the Mother’s Day stall to give to their mum on her special day.

Last week our Year 2 students visited the Melbourne Zoo as a stimulus for their Writer’s Notebook sessions. By all accounts everyone had a marvellous day and we are looking forward to reading some of the masterpieces created from ideas gathered.

The College was awash with wheels last Wednesday as many students took the opportunity to participate in the ‘Ride to School’ day. The day was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the importance of keeping fit as well as highlighting the importance of caring for the environment.

Finally a reminder to those hoping to partake in the Subway lunch next Friday to get their orders in on time to ensure you don’t miss out.

Assistant Principal’s News Continued...

NAPLAN

This week all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 completed their NAPLAN tests, with Year 3s participating for the first time. The College will receive the results during Term 3 and these will be distributed to parents as soon as they become available.

P-4 Parent Portal Information

On Monday we will be sending home to all families with students in P -4 families an important letter outlining the their family’s personalized Parent Portal access information. We ask that you keep this letter in a safe place as you will need the included information to access your children/s’ reports from this year onwards. 2014 Mid Year reports will be available via the portal on the first day of Term 3.

Primary Athletics Carnival

Next Tuesday 20th May our Year 4s will participate in their first PCC Athletics Carnival at the Hoppers Lane Athletics Track. Parents are encouraged to come down and support the students as they don their house colours and give their very best.

P-2 Take Home Book Bags

It is important for your child to have a book bag to protect and transport their take home reading materials as they bring them to and from school each day. If your child recently arrived at the College and does not yet have a book bag or if they have misplaced it and need a new one they can be purchased at the office for $15.

School Nursing Program - Preps

Over the next week all Prep students will be bringing home important information regarding the Primary School Nursing Program. The program is provided by DEECD as a free service. At the start of Term 3, school nurses will visit the College to conduct a basic health assessment in order to identify children with potential health related learning difficulties and to respond to parent concerns or observations about their child’s health and well being. Students can only be assessed if the questionnaire is completed and returned to school. If you do not want your child to be assessed you will need to mark the envelope accordingly and return it to school regardless.
PREP NUMERACY AND READING INFORMATION SESSION

The Prep Numeracy and Reading Information session is scheduled to take place next Wednesday 21st May. The morning session will run from 9am-10am and the evening session will take place form 6-7pm. If you are planning on attending and have not sent back the slip please do so early next week.

PE NEWS

Senior Athletics Carnival

The year 7s, 8s, and 9s had a busy start to the week with our Senior Athletics carnival being held on Monday the 12th of May. The weather could not have been better for the day allowing for a fun filled busy day. Students from all houses tried their best to earn points for their houses with Green house taking the overall honours for the day.

A huge thank you to all students and staff for their efforts in dressing up. Kieran Corrigan took out the title of best dressed with his efforts to impersonate an oversized banana. Special mention also goes to Adam Coutley, as a blue bird and Harry Ford the sumo wrestler. Great job boys.

Well done to all students who participated and made the day such a fun filled event!

TOP ARTS EXCURSION

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRINT MAKING

REFLECTIONS BY YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Today was an enjoyable day. I loved the first part of the Top Arts exhibition where there were stacked cans (inspired by Andy Warhol) and a student also made a metal dress. Stephanie Pidcock’s images called “Sugar” were my favourite. There were two photographs of a woman with flour over her face - I liked it because it was creative. I also enjoyed the graffiti down Hosier Lane and being able to take pictures of all the colours and textures on the bricks. All around the city there were heaps of opportunities to take pictures and gather inspiration.

Ruby Bozdis
Digital Photography

Today the excursion to the Top Arts Exhibition was interesting. There was art work made from cans, steel, wool, barb wire, and flour amongst many others. My favourite piece of art was by Hiell Nguyen. Films from Disney and Pixar as well as gaming studios inspired her. The picture was a woman and her hair flowed in the air like a river with the different shade of blue like water. That inspired the name called “Mind like a river.”

Tegan Koers
Digital Photography
**Sustainability**

Last week PCC had a very successful ride/walk to school day. A total of 665 children walked, rode or scooted! This was a wonderful effort and a huge thank you to PCC families for supporting the day. It took a great deal of traffic off the roads, less pollution for the day and we all got a little bit fitter. A special thank you to students who are able to ride or walk to school every day and well done to those who rode, scooted or walked for their first time. We understand that there are families who live to far away and were unable to participate.

Winners of the Rebel Sports Voucher Raffle drawn by the Green Gang were;

P-4- Lewis Brane 4F  
5-7 – Cooper 6A  
8-9 – Britteny Fleming 8K

Some students who rode for the first time were interviewed at the bike shed as they parked their bikes.

Chris Kilburn 1F “I got to ride on the road with Dad and my little brother. It was fun.”

George 1V – “I rode my bike for the first time ever. I enjoyed seeing bees fly around my head on my ride.”

Briihitha 1V “I rode with Dad. On our ride we got to see an old shopping trolley on the grass. We liked seeing insects on the footpath like beetles and ants.”

Ronith 1V – Today was my longest ride ever and I saw trees. Grandma walked with me.”

**Some Ride to School Day Pics**
Tangara Blue visit by Heidi Taylor to Year 6s
By Jumaien and Brizee 6 F
Today Heidi Taylor from Tangara Blue visited Year 6 to talk about marine debris. Marine debris is litter that we dispose in the environment and makes its way to the oceans. Did you know that about 18,000 pieces of rubbish are estimated to be in each square kilometre of water? We learnt that a lot of our rubbish comes from other countries which lack proper garbage disposal systems. Most of that rubbish lands on the shores of Christmas Island and Cape York. We also learnt that when a piece of plastic is thrown into the ocean it slowly degrades into miniscule pieces and is mistaken for food by fish and in fact plastic is manufactured with toxins and chemicals, so these fish end up eating these toxins and other animals eat the fish and it keeps travelling up the food chain and ends with us eating the toxins. Heidi set us two challenges: the first one was to bring nude food to school and the second one was to shop using green and eco-friendly bags.

Point Cook College will be celebrating World Environment Day on Thursday June the 5th with the theme “If we could just cover the Earth in tiny Little Poems”. It will be a paper free day and all children will be encouraged to wear green on the day.

Children will be working towards publishing poetry about the environment using natural materials, recycled materials and iPad. Poetry will be displayed and read on the day. More information to come.

Sustainability Curriculum team

Ask Ed App - Helping students to cope with problems

Ask Ed was developed with the collaboration of mother and son team, Robyn and Shaun Cotter. Robyn recently retired from teaching at Point Cook College while Shaun is the father of a Year 1 student and full-time software developer.

Combining their knowledge and skills they've developed an App for iPhone and iPad that helps children voice their problems, express their feelings and decide on a plan of action. Ask Ed helps children, parents and teachers work together to tackle social, emotional and behavioral issues.

The App was developed and tested with the assistance of teachers and students at Point Cook College.

Initial feedback from children, parents and teachers has confirmed the value of the App. Ask Ed’s mottos, ‘Get those problems out of your head’ and ‘Don’t let a problem beat you – you beat the problem’ help children understand the importance of talking about their problems. Children immediately embrace the idea and are willing to share their problems and develop a plan of action. The act of simply sharing their problem is often enough to reduce their anxiety and manage feelings of frustration, sadness and anger. Ask Ed helps children develop real life problem solving skills and build their resilience, the ability to ‘bounce back’ and move forward in a positive way.

Ask Ed can be used with children at school, at home or out and about. Ask Ed can deal with any ‘real life’ problems, from the smallest issue to a ‘full-blown’ catastrophe!

More information is available on the website www.ask-ed.com.au
Library News

**Writing Competition at Wyndham Libraries**

Wyndham Libraries are conducting a writing competition with story / prose and poetry sections. Competitions are for various age groups up to 18 years and include one for 6 years and under. Cash prizes and your chance to get your winning entry published in an anthology of work. Enter online at [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/libraries) or see the library for an entry form.

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**UNIFORM SALE**

The pre-loved uniform sale is on again!

When: Thursday 22nd May
Where: Canteen
Times: 8.15am - 9 am and 2.30pm - 3.15pm

Second hand uniform items in assorted sizes will be for sale. Please note that we might not have all items or sizes available. We only have a few items of the senior uniform available.

If you would like to donate any unwanted uniform items, please drop them off at First Aid.

The items will be sold for $1 each and all money raised will be donated to the State Schools Relief Fund.

We will also have new navy blue slacks and cargo pants for sale and they are $5 each.

If you’re needing extra uniform items for Winter then come along and see if we have the size you’re after.

Sandy, Annabelle & Julie

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**Western Bulldogs/WRFL All Girls Auskick Centre**

**Start Date:** Wednesday 7th May
**Time:** 4:30pm-5:30pm
**Venue:** Saltwater Reserve, Point Cook

A brand new NAB AFL Auskick ALL GIRLS Auskick program is being conducted this year at Saltwater Reserve, Point Cook. The cost is $60 and each participant will receive 6 weeks of coaching in Aussie Rules and a football backpack packed full of goodies - including your very own football! The Western Bulldogs will be supporting the clinic with ticket giveaways for all girls and player appearances over the 6 weeks, so grab a friend and register now! To register, log on to [www.aflauskick.com.au](http://www.aflauskick.com.au) and search for “Western Bulldogs” in the centre locator!