From the Principal’s Desk

I hope that everyone has had a wonderful fortnight since the last edition of the newsletter. The College is definitely in full swing and I am pleased with the positive outlook for the year ahead. I have particularly enjoyed speaking to students and parents who have provided me with informal insight into their positive experiences.

2015 College Council

I recently sent out correspondence informing the College Community of the establishment of the 2015 College Council. As indicated we had five parent vacancies and I am pleased to announce that we had 5 nominations, therefore we don’t require a ballot.

I am delighted to announce the 2015 College Council:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Vetere</td>
<td>DET member, College Acting Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bernadette Cronin</td>
<td>DET member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kylie Brealey</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcus Galbraith</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark Boxsell</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Schmidt</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Brockhouse</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Karastamatis</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvana Everny</td>
<td>Parent member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gina O’Keefe</td>
<td>Community member</td>
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I look forward to working with the new College Council to ensure the provision of high level education for all students at Point Cook P-9 College. Office bearers will be elected at the first Council meeting on Monday 16th March.

Ongoing traffic issue.

On Monday morning whilst greeting students and parents I noticed two gentlemen from Wyndham Council inconspicuously recording the number plates of parents who were using the bus zone on Tom Roberts parade as a drop off zone. I did challenge the Wyndham Council employees to give a warning prior to issuing a fine however they were unwavering.

Whilst I understand your frustration PLEASE avoid using the area as a drop off zone. The Council who has jurisdiction over this have clearly marked it a bus zone and will fine you. The College Council for some time has lobbied the Local Government to provide a solution but to no avail. I will re instigate the discussion with the new college council.

In the meantime I can suggest:

1. If you can avoid driving, do so and enjoy the walk with your children
2. Encourage your children to ride their bike to school (always with a helmet )
3. Take advantage of the soccer ground car park a hundred meters up the road
4. Bring your children to school a little earlier
5. If you have no other option PLEASE be aware of your surroundings as there are hundreds of students at any given time arriving at school.
I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and I hope we can arrive at a solution sooner than later.

**Second-hand uniform sale**

We would like to thank you for your support with the Sale. The College sold a lot of preloved uniform items and bags to raised $343, for the State School Relief Fund.

**Ongoing Reminder**

Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your contact details. It is imperative that we are able to contact you. Children can become distressed if they are unwell and nobody is able to pick them up from school.

Have a great fortnight.

Kind regards,

Frank Vetere

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**Assistant Principal News**

**Prep—Year 4 Community News**

It is very difficult to believe, but there are only four weeks left of term one, and one of them is a short week due to the long weekend in March. Monday the 9th March is Labour Day and is a public holiday.

I am very pleased to report that all students in years prep to four have settled very well and are all hard at work learning many new and exciting things. The prep team had an open afternoon last week and it was a perfect opportunity for parents to come and visit their child’s home room to see some of the exciting work their child has been doing. The prep team are very excited about their Easter Hat Parade and Assembly which will be held in the gym on Friday the 27th March starting at 2pm.

The grade one team’s Inquiry unit for this term is all about what it involves to belong to a community. They are planning a Community Gala Day to be held on Thursday the 19th of March. At this Gala day all students in grade one will get the opportunity to meet with a variety of visiting community groups to find out more information about these groups. Some of the community groups coming in are:

- The Point Cook Library
- A hockey club

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The year two team’s Inquiry focus for term one is “Happy, Healthy Me!” They are having a Performing Arts incursion all about the importance of Friendship, which is an integral part of being healthy and happy. This incursion will take place at school on Tuesday the 3rd March during session 3 and 4.

A grade one and two assembly will take place on Friday the 6th March at 2.30pm in the Year 2 neighbourhood.

**Congratulations:**

We would like to congratulate Allan Basman who is one of our year 3 students. Allan achieved third place in the Junior Division of the 2015 Round 1 Spellmasters Australia competition. This earned him a place in the Junior Grand final at the end of the year. Congratulations Allan and best of luck for the Grand final.

**A few reminders:**

A member of the Point Cook Community phoned me to share her concerns about the way some of our young students are riding their bicycles to and from school. She has reported that some do not wear helmets and some are riding in a way that is not safe to themselves or other road users. If you have a child that rides to school, please sit them down and have a talk about what they have to do when out riding on the roads. Point Cook College would be devastated if something happened to someone from our community. Please help us in this regard.

There have been a number of instances in the last few weeks when parents have requested a meeting with me or teachers in my team. These meetings have often been booked for late in the afternoon due to parents not being able to get here earlier from work. While we always try to accommodate these requests as much as possible, it is very frustrating when we wait here until the meeting time only to find the parent does not turn up for the meeting. If you have arranged a meeting and cannot attend, please find a way to let us know that you are not able to make it. Thank you in advance for helping us in this way.

Marg Holness

P – 4 Assistant Principal
Whole school community news

TERM 1 Parent Teacher Interviews and Parent Portal access

Parent Teacher Interviews for all students are scheduled for the following dates:

**Years 1 – 9**
Thursday 26th March - 3.15pm – 7pm
(Home room teachers and specialists)

Further information will be provided on the website and in the newsletter over the coming weeks. Interview notes will be sent home for parents to select suitable times.

**Years 5-9 parents** will have access to Interim reports on Tuesday 17th March and you will need your parent portal user name and password to access these. New families to the College will be receiving this information over the next few weeks. If you have misplaced this information you will need to email the College via the parent portal link on the website.

School Lunches

We have had a number of students regularly arriving at school without their lunch or in the case of younger students in particular, eating both snack and lunch during the morning break and having nothing left at lunch eating time. In these instances parents will be contacted and asked to bring their child’s lunch into school. If you know you are providing ample food for your child you may need to have a conversation with them about ensuring they save some food for the lunch break.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING AT PCC

Wyndham Youth Resource Centre

Youth services provides information, programs, events and assistance for young people aged 12 to 25 years of age. To see what Wyndham Youth Resource Centre has to offer please visit the website at: youth.wyndham.vic.gov.au

Healthy Weight Week

Is your family up for the challenge?

LOTE NEWS

Dear Parents,

In Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 Indonesian classes the students have been using an iPad/iPhone app called ‘Bitsboard’. The app is free to download and is lots of fun for students to use as there are many games for each topic that they can choose from.

Once the app is downloaded, students do not have to set up an account, they can click on the ‘guest’ button, click on ‘catalogue’ at the top of the screen, and then ‘shared’. Search for ‘Ibu Anne’ and this should bring up all the games I have made, separated into year levels.

Lastly, click on the appropriate year level and your child can play any of the games at this level. We have listed the priority topics for each year level so please encourage playing these before moving on to other topics.

**Year 1 – Mainan (Toys)**

**Year 2 – Dari Mana? (Where are you from?)**

**Year 3 – Mandi (Bathing)**

**Year 4 – Menanam Padi di Indonesia (Growing Rice in Indonesia)**

Your child will be using the app in class over the next two to three weeks, so once you have downloaded the app, they should be able to show you what to do!

We would love it if they could access the games on their own devices to practise their vocabulary.

Thanks for your support of the LOTE program.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Mackelvie, Gede Marsaja, Elie Cung

Years 1 – 4 Indonesian Teachers
PE & 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:
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 2003, 2004 or 2005 and has experience they are welcome to attend our initial school trial. These will be conducted at lunchtime as outlined below:

Monday 2nd March - AFL
Tuesday 3rd March - Soccer
Thursday 5th March - Basketball
Friday 6th March - Netball

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 District 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.

Student Injury/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 outlining the issue with your child to PE session 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 beginning their athletics unit and most weeks will be 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.

YMCA

YMCA Point Cook will be running an Autumn Summer School Holiday Program, offering heaps of awesome activities, including Wildlife exposure reptile encounter, Cartoon Capers, a trip to Werribee Zoo, Kemizu, and more! Bookings open on 24 February, for full details and to book, visit: www.childrensservices.ymca.org.au.

FUNDRAISING

Please find attached to the back of the newsletter a parents and friends invitation to our first informal gathering to get to know other families in the College community.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Subway Lunch Day
Friday March 27th (orders due Friday March 20th)
Easter Raffle
Monday March 3rd – Friday March 27th
Good Friday Appeal
Out of uniform day - gold coin donation
BOOK CLUB

Welcome to Scholastic Book Club for 2015!

Did you know 91% of kids are more likely to finish books they choose themselves?

This year our school will be participating in Scholastic Book Club. Twice a term during the school year a Club catalogue will be sent home with a wide variety of books offered. The Book Club catalogues provide quality, age appropriate selections from which children can select their own books.

All books offered are carefully reviewed and levelled by a team of experts to appeal to a wide range of abilities and interests. All purchases made through Book Club generate rewards for our school, so we can continue to provide quality educational material to your children however there is never any obligation to order.

Children improve their reading skills by READING so providing quality books they will WANT to read is a priority. Orders will be processed both by cash and online with instructions sent home with your child’s first book club.

Orders will be due in online one week after the catalogues are taken home. We hope you enjoy developing your children’s home library whilst supporting our school.