

TERM 1

30/01/2015

27/03/2015

TERM 2

13/04/2015

26/06/2015

TERM 3

13/07/2015

18/09/2015

TERM 4

05/10/2015

18/12/2015

Dates To Remember

April

13th - Term 2 commences

14th - 6F, 6J & 6B Excursion to RAAF Base (All day)

17th - Year 8 Parliament/Government excursion (8.30am leaving college)

- Incursion Springside College (Lote Team)

21st - 6AW, 6RW, 6H excursion to RAAF base (All day)

23rd - 5R, 5A, 5C & 5AC Excursion to RAAF Base (All day)

24th - Newsletter Issue 7 released

- Subway Lunch Day

From the Principal's Desk

Congratulations to the entire College community for concluding an extremely successful and positive first term. We have welcomed many new teachers, families and students to the College and begun the learning year with much rigour and enthusiasm. To celebrate the wonderful achievements of first term we look forward to the release of the first edition of PCCTV in the first week of term 2.

Parent forum

On Wednesday 18th March members of the College executive hosted a parent forum focused on the development of the new Strategic Plan. I presented an overview of the goals in the Strategic Plan and the process of its development. Parents then participated in 3 workshops focussed on the following areas of student wellbeing and engagement:

- Broadening educational provision to increase opportunities for all.
- Creating a positive and consistent framework to manage and monitor the learning environment.
- Developing processes and programs that support the health and wellbeing of our students.
- Ensuring all key areas of student transitions are cohesive planned and supported.

Parents actively participated in discussion then shared their views in a plenary session at the end. To finish up we were treated with freshly made scones and jam from the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen.

I was pleased with the input and we sincerely value the feedback offered. We very much look forward to including these perspectives in our planning and development.

I would like to thank our Assistant Principals' Robyn Fincher, Jenny Hayes and Marg Holness for running the workshops and Julie Paris in the kitchen for the scones. Most importantly I would like to thank the following parents for offering their valuable time to join us and having a say in the future direction of the College.

Kylie Jeffrey, Tracy Morgan, Kylie Buckingham, Madeleine Tidball, Denise Sinclair, Allison Senense, Gaone Makola, Dimmy Hyde, Jamy Sims, Harmandeep Kaur, Stuart McCormick, David Lawrence, Sheenal Kishore, Ali Bower, Andra Taylor, Nisa Medagama, Lauren Goosen, Marsh Maver-Baxter, Karen Wade, Melinda Centofanti.





Whole school programs

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of staff at our school who have worked hard to organise whole school events recently. There are feature articles and photos in this edition of the newsletter which demonstrate the success of these programs. I would also thank you for your ongoing support of these initiatives that provide students with a global understanding of issues and community spirit.

Congratulations and thank you to Robyn Cairns and the Green Gang for organising 'Ride to School day'

Congratulations and thank you to Rebecca Collins and Jenny O'Ryan for organising Harmony Day Celebrations

Congratulations and thank you to Rebecca Thornton and Gina O'Keefe for arranging the Harmony Day Morning tea for parents which was hugely successful.

Congratulations and thank you to Naomi West for arranging a huge collection for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

Online Parent Portal for booking interviews

I thank everyone for their patience with the parent portal last week. The team responsible have worked extremely hard to ensure a smooth process and to support our number one guiding principle of 'creativity and innovation.' Unfortunately the system we are using had an unexpected update overnight that caused some delay and disruption. It has been brought to my attention that some parents have expressed annoyance with the disruption. Whilst I understand frustration with technology a little understanding and support for these minor issues would be appreciated. I'm happy to talk to individuals who feel aggrieved. On a positive note the process has indicated a considerable growth in the number of parents accessing the portal and more importantly making appointments to meet with their children's teachers.

A reminder that school resumes on Monday 13th April.

I wish you all a wonderful break. I urge all families and children to stay alert whilst travelling or playing outside and prioritise safety. I also encourage all students to find a balance between playing video games, physical activity, reading great books and eating chocolate eggs.

Term 2 is very busy and we begin with a whole College Centenary of ANZAC commemoration.

Happy Easter and Go Blues!!!

Frank Vetere

Assistant Principal's News

Firstly, I would like to wish all our students and their families a very happy Easter break. The most important thing during holiday time is to enjoy the break and of course to stay safe. We look forward to seeing all our students safely back at school on the 13th April 2015.

Although term one was very short, there were many wonderful learning experiences taking place in all year levels. I have no doubt that this enthusiasm will continue in term two and I look forward to sharing these exciting journeys with you in the newsletter.

One thing that was recently brought to my attention was the incredibly high number of absences some of our students have had this term.



This was only an eight week term and there was one public holiday, which means we only had a total of 39 school days. I was horrified to see that some of our students have missed 20 days or more of school this term. That means they have missed more than half of their learning for the term. If that continues to be the pattern for the rest of the year, it will be detrimental to not only their learning, but also to their social aspects of school life.

Every parent knows how tough it can be to get their child to school each day, and for some there can be more obstacles than others. By making sure they turn up, you are helping them and fulfilling your legal requirement as a parent. Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. The skills and knowledge your child learns every day builds on knowledge and skills learnt the previous day. If your child misses the basic skills, they may have fewer chances and fewer choices when they are looking for work and developing social relationships later in life.

Factors Contributing to Absenteeism

Personal Factors – your child may be having difficulties in building relationships with peers, or he/she may be feeling like a failure or feeling hopeless.

Family related factors – family life may be very busy, or children may be given other responsibilities that unreasonably keep them home from school.

Economic factors – parental unemployment or limited access to childcare or transport may keep the home from school.

School factors – not having completed home learning, fear of bullying and not fitting in, may also be a problem.

If you are experiencing such problems, please talk to your child's home room teacher.

Tips for Preventing your child from being away

Show attendance is important – Let your child know (by what you do and say) that it is important for their future that they attend school, without missing many days.

Get your child to school on time – arriving late can be disruptive and unsettling for your child and also sets a bad example.

Take an interest in your child's education – ask your child about their day and praise them when they do well at school.

I look forward to seeing all students back at school next term.

Marg Holness

Assistant Principal P- 4

Parent Teacher Interviews and Parent Portal access reflection

The first round of parent teacher interviews is now complete and once again it was great to see so many parents taking the opportunity to be an active participant in their child's learning. The next phase of the reporting to parents process will see Mid Year written reports available on the portal at the beginning of Term 3 for all students, followed by Mid year interviews for Prep-4 students in the second week of Term 3 and Years 5-9 interviews taking place in Mid September.

This was the first time we have had parents book interviews online and while there have been a few minor glitches, generally the process has been well supported and accepted. The College recognises that online communication in all forms is not only more timely and efficient but more importantly, in line with sustainable global practices. From the College perspective we have been working towards this goal for a number of years and we are pleased to finally get the process happening. One of the challenges faced has been keeping parents informed with updated information and given that the newsletter is only created fortnightly it would be good practice to regularly visit the website as it is continually being updated. In addition to this we have been able to contact families who subscribe to the newsletter via email with direct updates. If we do not have email details for you as yet it would be helpful if you could provide them for the future.

Parent Portal

Many of the phone calls and emails we received leading up to the interviews were requests for misplaced portal details. The log in details you received either last year or upon enrolment this year give you access to the portal for all children in your family and will remain current for your family's time at the College. It is important that you store these details in a safe place as you will need to use them to access reports and book parent teacher interviews numerous times each year. It is not a sustainable practice to have to continually reissue these details to families each time access is required.

ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING AT PCC

We regularly receive information from various organisations within the community advertising courses or group activities to support students and families dealing with particular mental health issues. Depending on the nature of the opportunity we will continue to promote these in the most appropriate forum. Currently this happens via the newsletter and as the year progresses we plan to have a section dedicated to Wellbeing on the website where this information will be available. In addition to this, Mrs Farrugia has established a Middle Years Wellbeing noticeboard in the Years 7-9 neighbourhood for students to access relevant information. If you are looking for support please look over the information carefully and make contact with the providers directly before deciding if they meet your needs.

A few that have come across my desk this week are;

www.BLACKDOGLMS.com - offering online courses targeted in building good mental health in young people including building resilience and navigating teenage depression.

info@creativesteps.com.au - offering social skills groups for students with high functioning Autism or Asperger's between 3 and 12 years of age

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

On behalf of the Wellbeing team I would like to wish everyone a relaxing holiday, taking the time to refresh mind, body and soul ready to begin again next term.

Robyn Fincher
Assistant Principal

ANZAC Day Commemorations

Monday 13th-Friday 24th April

During the Centenary of ANZAC we mark a century of service and sacrifice, encompassing all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations in which Australia and New Zealand have been involved. This is the most significant commemoration in our nation's history.

Teaching and learning programs at Point Cook College during the 2 weeks leading up to ANZAC Day will focus on teaching our students about the ANZAC landing, the importance of ANZAC Day and its legacy. We will also be exploring other significant conflicts that our nation has been involved in.

Teachers have been planning excursions, incursion and many other learning activities. Our learning will be displayed in our foyer and in other areas throughout the college. Please come and see the work of the students. We will also be holding a commemorative service on Friday 24th April conducted by our Year 9 students.

I would like to invite members of the school community with experience in any of the conflicts to come and share these experiences with our students. It may be a grandparent who fought in one of the wars or a relative with stories and medals. Our students would really benefit from some interaction with ex servicemen and women. Stories might also come from civilians who have experienced war in their country and are able to share that perspective.

If you or someone you know would like to come and share, please ring me at the college on 83487100, asking for Jenny Hayes.

Please keep accessing the website for more information about our ANZAC Commemoration activities. Follow us on Twitter to see these activities in action!

Thanks

Jenny Hayes

Assistant Principal



SPORT NEWS

Congratulations to Lachlan Dosser of 5AC who represented Point Cook College in the recent District, Divisional & Regional Swim Carnivals. Lachlan swam in the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Western Regional Swim Carnival on Tuesday in the Boys 9-13, 50m Backstroke- Multiclass Category, and has now qualified for the SSV State Swim Championships.

The Multiclass Category allows for students with a disability to compete in a multi disability format according to gender and age in sports such as swimming and athletics. The swim results are calculated using the Swimming Australia Multi Class Points Schedule.

Lachlan will now swim at MSAC on April 15th.

We are so proud of Lachlan's efforts and achievement as we know how hard he has worked to get to where he is today. It was only twelve months ago Lachlan found it challenging to complete a full 50m length in the pool.

He has now exceeded his original goal of gaining entry into the College Swim Team and the opportunity has now given him the confidence to realise his true potential as well as put him in touch with appropriate networks to further his passion.

WELL DONE LACHLAN & GOOD LUCK!!! We are all behind you...

'Follow your Dreams and the universe will open doors for you where there were only walls'

The PE & Sport Team



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS PCC on "Ride or Walk to school day." 560 students participated

On the 19th of March, Point Cook College had their fifth "Ride or Walk to school day". The year five and six green gang did a wonderful job of organising the day and running a raffle for each year level.

A total of 560 children rode or walked on the day.

Members of our year six green gang interviewed some preps from Prep DG on their first time riding or walking to school.

"Elina walked with her big sister. Aadi rode with his mum and big brother on his scooter. Alanna and Will rode to school on their scooters with their parents.

"Alanna really enjoyed getting outside in the fresh air. Aadi and Will liked listening to the leaves rustling and the birds chirping and enjoyed the fresh air. Elina liked seeing lots of birds and trees and being out in nature."

It was great to hear that because of the day many students would increase the days they rode or walked to school. That's lots of cars off our local roads and less pollution. Keep up the great work for the environment PCC !!

Harmony Day



On Friday 20th March, Point Cook College celebrated Harmony Day. Students took part in discussions and activities in their homerooms. Each year level collected information about the main languages that their students speak at home and the countries where students were born.

This information will be collated and used to create a display, which will also be shared in the newsletter next term.



We had balloons on the gates at the main entrances to welcome students and their families as they arrived. Each student and staff member also received a Harmony Day ribbon to wear.

A photographer from The Star Weekly newspaper visited and took photos of a group of Year 1 students, which has been included on page 3 of this week's edition.



A video was made showing students and teachers who were born overseas talking about what Harmony Day means to them and why they like living in Australia. The video will be available on the College website shortly.

We held a successful morning tea for families to meet other parents in the school community. Parents were invited to bring a plate of food to share from their cultural background. We shared Chinese dumplings, dim sims and meat-balls, Indian chickpea fritters, a Filipino dessert, Indian samosas, Traditional Romanian biscuits, a Greek Platter, South Indian Murukkn and Australian lamingtons.

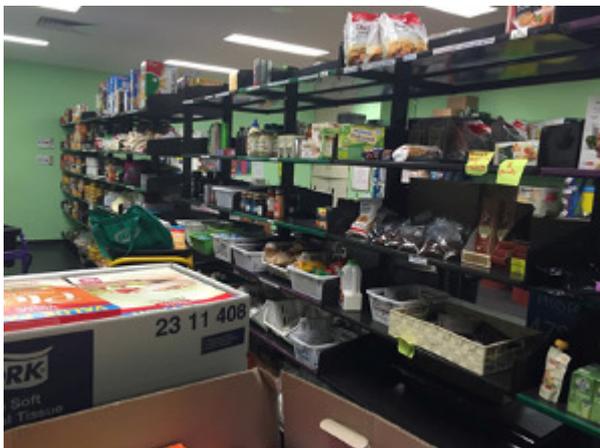


The parents group will continue every fortnight starting from next term. The sessions will alternate between Wednesday afternoons from 2-3pm and Friday mornings 9-10am. The first group will be held on **Wednesday 22nd April**. The second session will be on **Friday 8th May**. Please enter through the main entrance and sign in at the office. Everyone is welcome!

The purpose of the group is for families in the College community to come together and meet other people. There will be an opportunity to discuss different topics or issues that parents would like to know more about. Guest speakers will be arranged too. There will also be opportunities to assist with projects around the College. For further information please contact Rebecca Thornton - rebeccathornton@pcc.vic.edu.au.

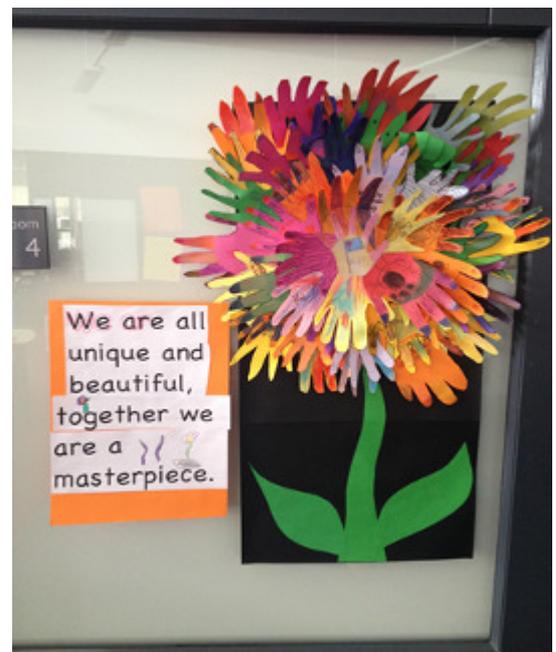


In keeping with the theme of Harmony Day, families were asked to donate non-perishable items for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Food Bank. We were proud to donate over 60 bags and boxes of assorted items. They will be very appreciated by the families who receive them. Thank you for your support and generosity.



The College has recently made donations to the Western English Language School. Books from our library that are no longer used and some uniform items from when we were formally Point Cook Primary School, were recently given to the refugee students who attend WELS. They were very excited with their books and new clothes.

The staff also personally donated blankets, sheets, towels, coats and clothing to WELS who will also distribute it to families in need.



VERTICAL GARDEN UPDATE

As you might remember the Year 2s built a vertical garden 2 years ago located next to the wetlands and last year we asked for a collection of tins (milo, baby formula and coffee) to help fix the garden. We are asking for a new collection of tins as we have ran out and need to continue to develop the garden.

Thank you in advance for your help!

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Thank you to all those families who contributed to the success of our fundraising efforts this term. We raised \$342.00 for the State School Relief fund, \$260.00 for the ANZAC fundraiser and donated over 60 shopping bags of non-perishable food items for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. We have had two very successful Subway lunch days and the money has not even been totaled for the Easter Raffle and Good Friday Appeal yet. A special thank you to the wonderful parents who helped staple thousands of raffle tickets to hundreds of notes, a huge job that is not possible to do without you.

It is of great comfort knowing that our College community is so helpful, generous and supportive of our initiatives here at the college.

Term Two snapshot:

Subway Fun Lunch Days Friday April 24th, Friday May 22nd and Friday June 26th. The MS Read-a-thon, Mother's Day Stall and ANZAC celebrations. If we receive enough donations we are hoping to have another second hand uniform sale also.

Gina O'Keefe

Community Liaison Officer

Have a safe and Happy Easter!!!

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e a s t e r



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.