Term 1 - Week 2 – 5th Feb 2014

Principals Report -

Welcome back!

Welcome to the 2014 school year! I hope you all had a great break and that you are looking forward to the year ahead. We have had an excellent start to the school year with everyone settling into the routine of school very quickly. Thank you to all who attended the testing and interviews last Wednesday. We had almost 100% attendance and reports from both teachers and parents indicate that the day was a great way to start the school year.

Student Leadership Assembly and ‘Welcome’ breakfast-Thursday 27 February:

The special assembly to induct all our student leaders and to introduce the Prep and Year 12 students will be held on Thursday 27 February commencing at 9:15am in the BER building. The assembly will be preceded by a welcome breakfast of fruit, yoghurt, cereal, tea and coffee commencing at 8am in the undercover area. Everyone is most welcome to attend both the breakfast and the assembly.

Student Leadership:

Our 2014 student leadership positions have been finalised and I would like to congratulate the following students on their appointments:

Senior Leadership team:
School Captains: Charmarelle McCarroll and Stacey Shalders
Sports Captain: Tim O’Brien
Arts Captain: Lillian Cummins
Wellbeing Captain: Tayla Hobbs

Senior House Captains:
Endeavour House: Green Bree Cummins Cooper Lower
Inspire House: Blue Tori Kleevan Brooke Eldridge
Succeed House: Yellow Shona McGuigan Tyler Fowler

Years 5-7 House Captains:
Endeavour House: Green Alice Tanner I ssac Fowler
Inspire House: Blue Zoee Boyden Declan Gibson
Succeed House: Yellow Grace Thulborn Isaac Wareham

Years 3-4 House Captains:
Endeavour House: Green Tasha Killen Sarah Gubbins
Inspire House: Blue Olivia Anders Jack Lehmann
Succeed House: Yellow Grace Wareham Johnno Roxburgh
House Mentors:

Endeavour House:  
Years 8-12: Lyle Russell  
Years 5-7: Geoff DeManser  

Inspire House:  
Years 8-12: Jess Courtney  
Years 5-7: Alison Coate  

Succeed House:  
Years 8-12: Linda Simkin  
Years 5-7: Olivia Campbell  

As was the case last year the house mentors at Years 5-7 and Years 8-12 will be responsible for all matters relating to the students in their house and will be the first point of contact for parents.

P-4 Class Captains:

At Monday’s assembly our school captains, Charmarelle and Stacey announced the P-4 Class Captains for Term 1 and I would also like to congratulate the following students on being selected for this important role:

Year Prep: Taylor Monahan and Kane Killen  
Year 1/2A: Lucy Barry and Liam Anders  
Year 1/2B: Nirvana Cameron and Mazin Burgess  
Year 1/2C: Scarlett Sagnol and Jordyn Rohan  
Year 3/4A: Sarah Gubbins and Shayne Woods  
Year 3/4B: Claire Mahncke and Declan Gibson  

Student Uniform:

It has been pleasing to see the great majority of students in full school uniform and as I have mentioned many times in the past all students have a responsibility to wear correct uniform each day. If for some reason a student is unable to wear uniform they need to provide a note on that day to their class teacher or house mentor but it is important to realise that the note is only designed to give approval on a very short-term basis.

Attendance and Punctuality:

As was mentioned at the interviews last week the importance of regular attendance and punctuality cannot be emphasised enough. If students miss school regularly or are often late it does have a significant impact on their learning. If your child is going to be absent please inform the school by telephone (55992204) or text message (0427 841239) preferably between 8am and 9am on the morning of the absence. If we haven’t received notification of a child’s absence, parents will be contacted at approximately 10am. The Education Department does not allow any ‘Unexplained absences and therefore an explanation must be provided for every absence.

If you know in advance of an impending absence (e.g. medical appointment) please let the office know prior to the day. Senior students must have a minimum 80% attendance in order to be considered for satisfactory completion of a unit.

Bus Travel:

All bus travellers are reminded of their responsibilities whilst using the school bus service. This includes remaining seated and behaving appropriately at all times. Students must also wear seatbelts where fitted. Of course, the utmost care must always be taken when students get on or off the buses and it is important that parents constantly reinforce these safety measures to their children. It is also important that parents inform the office staff as early as possible about any changes in bus travel as accurate records are essential in the case of an emergency.

Walking/riding to school:

All students who walk or ride bikes to school are reminded that it is essential they use the school crossing if they need to cross Dunlop Street.
Congratulations to the Year 12 class of 2013:

Congratulations to our graduating VCE students from 2013. The fact that they are in a position to achieve their goals of tertiary study or employment is a great reward for their hard work and commitment and reflects the strong culture of achievement that we are so proud of at Mortlake College. Of the nine students who applied for a tertiary course, all received an offer and eight of the nine received their first choice. Particular congratulations to our 2013 Dux, Sara Bolch, whose ATAR score placed her in the top 1% of students across the whole state.

Activity Centre:

Over the holiday period the Activity Centre underwent quite a transformation and now has a brand new floor surface. The surface that was replaced was the original surface and had lasted over thirty years, largely due to the way it was cared for. I’m sure all our students and the community user groups will enjoy using the refurbished facility and will ensure that only non-marking footwear is worn.

Athletics Hurdles:

I would like to acknowledge and thank Jacinta Wareham for facilitating the sponsorship of a set of hurdles so that our junior students can to have access to them on a regular basis rather than have to depend on borrowing them. Early this week Jacinta had commitments for 18 of the 24 hurdles required so if you feel you can contribute please let Jacinta know as soon as possible. More information is provided in this newsletter.

Years 5-12 House Swimming Sports

The Years 5-12 house swimming sports will be held on Friday morning and all parents are most welcome to attend and support their children and their houses. The student leadership team will be holding a barbecue during the morning with sausages for sale at $2 and bottled water for $1. As the weather is expected to be

The threat of bushfire and Code Red days:

Please read the information sheet in this newsletter about the procedures we will follow on Code Red bushfire days. Our school has been identified as being at the highest bushfire risk and as such must close on days that are declared to be Code Red.

We welcome feedback from parents and if you have concerns or queries about any aspect of your child’s education please contact the school and arrange to meet with the class teacher, house mentor or myself.

Graeme Good
Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014

EMA Payments to parents are as follows:
- $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
- $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA:
1. The student must be below the age of sixteen; and
2. The student must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
3. The claimant must on Eligibility Day, 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
   o be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   o be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
   o be a temporary foster parent.

Submit their application to the school by the due date.

If you feel that you are eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance and have not yet signed a claim form please call at the General Office to obtain the relevant documentation.

WANTED

If anyone has any empty ice cream containers—the Home Eco department would love to have them.

Please have clean & drop off to Office.

Thanks

Do you have an email address?

Do you receive the weekly school newsletter in hard copy form?

Due to price increases with printing, we would like to change to email the newsletters to all families.

Please email : Glenice on justin.glenice.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 55992204 to update your details.

Thanks for your support.
**SPORT SPOT**

# P-6 Sport Dates Term 1

**February**

18\(^{th}\) February  
3-6 School Swimming Sports Carnival  

28\(^{th}\) February  
District Tennis  

**March**

6\(^{th}\) March  
Divisional Swimming Carnival (Hamilton)  

18\(^{th}\) March  
3-6 School Athletics Sport Carnival  

24\(^{th}\) March  
5-10 School Athletic Trials  

25\(^{th}\) March  
3-6 District Athletics (Camperdown)  

**April**

3\(^{rd}\) April  
P-2 Fun Athletics House Sports Carnival  

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**Dear 3-6 Parents,**

A quick reminder, that the Swimming Carnival is on Tuesday 18\(^{th}\) February. The program will start at 11:00 and I’m hoping that we will be completed by 3pm.

The students will be asked to nominate which events they would like to participate in during home group next week. Once again this year, the students will be asked to compete in the 50m events if it is all possible for them to safely complete the event.

The students have been asked to wear their house colours. They will need sunscreen, hat, plenty of water, and their recess and lunch. (no lunch orders).

If you wish to take your child home at the completion of the carnival can you please advise the office before taking them.

Thanks,

Nigel Boyden

(P-6) Sports Co-ordinator

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**COLLEGE HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS - Years 5-12**

On Friday the 7\(^{th}\) February, our College Swimming Sports will be held from 9:30 to 1:30pm. If any parents would like to help out with official duties then can they please contact me.

**STATE NOMINATIONS**

Information regarding state nominations and other sports can be found on the School Sport Victoria website.

www.ssv.vic.edu.au

Nathan Jones

Year 7-12 Sports Coordinator
Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside. Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison.

If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

For more information, see: Kidsafe Victoria

Sleep and Back to School for Teenagers

It is normal for students’ sleep patterns to change as they grow, and during adolescence many teenagers will find they want to stay up late. Combining this with late night socialising on the internet or mobile phone can leave teenagers, and adults, struggling to get back to a regular school night schedule. Different weekend activities, staying up late and sleeping in on weekends can also upset our biorhythms and contribute to sleepiness on school days.

Poor sleep affects concentration during the day, memory, ability to learn, and moodiness. Ongoing issues with sleep can affect hormones and weight. If the following ideas are not helpful, visit your local health care professional for advice.

**Back to School - Sleeping Tips:**

- Exercise during the day, but at least 2 hours before bedtime. For example not after 8:00pm
- Reduce or cut out caffeine containing food and drinks. Caffeine is found in drinks such as "V" or “Red Bull", coffee, tea and chocolate. Some people are much more sensitive to caffeine than others.
- Try to have a darkened room in which to sleep,
- Turn off electrical devices such as computers and phones.
- Eat well during the day, follow healthy eating guidelines, such as eating fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Establish a quiet night time routine, for example shower, then reading in bed for a while before going to sleep.
- Remember, what you do during the day influences your sleep.
Raising Teens

A program for parents of children in Years 8, 9 & 10

Topics include:

- Normalising behaviour
- Setting boundaries & building resilience
- Identifying at-risk behavior
- Communication
- Tips for maintaining a positive relationship with your adolescent

Date: Tuesday 11th March 2014. Cost: FREE!!!!
Time: 6.00pm—7.30pm
Venue: Terang College.
RSVP by: Tuesday 4th March
Terang parents: register at the school office.
Mortlake parents: register with Jenny Williams.
Sorry, no childcare available.

TERANG COLLEGE

Centacare

MORTLAKE COLLEGE
PHOTO SHOP

Prep - Yr 4 Class Captains - Term 1

Prep— Taylor Monahan & Kane Killen

A12— Liam Anders & Lucy Barry

B12— Nirvana Cameron & Mazin Burgess

C12— Scarlett Sagnol & Jordyn Rohan

3/4 A— Sarah Gubbins & Shayne Woods

3/4 B— Declan Gibson & Claire Mahncke
PHOTO SHOP

Our New Activity Centre Floor—Doesn’t it look awesome!

Our New Kids in the Kitchen Aprons!
INSPIRE HOUSE - INTERVIEW WITH LEADERS TORI & BROOKE

PROFILES

TORI    BROOKE
Year Level: 12 11
Favourite Colour: Purple Green
Favourite Sport: Netball Netball
Favourite Subject: Legal Maths
Favourite TV Show:
   Tori: Vampire Diaries
   Brooke: Pretty Little Liars
Favourite Teacher: Mrs.Janes  Ms.Simkin
Dream Holiday: Thailand  Hawaii
Dream Career: Nurse  Paediatrician
VCE Aspirations: High ATAR  High ATAR

INTERVIEW RESPONSES

What were the ‘Inspire’ highlights for you both last year?

Our fundraising day, ‘Pirate Day’ went really well and we worked well as a House.

What made you both decide to apply to be a House Captain?

We both wanted to have a leadership role and have a say in decision making.

What are you looking forward to this year in terms of Inspire House?

Being involved in all of our House activities.

How are the House meetings going to run this year for Inspire?

Monday - calendar and diary; Tuesday - goal setting; Wednesday - show and tell; Thursday - House activities; and Friday Photo 365.

What other areas will you be involved in as Captains?

Running Meetings, organising events, helping out our House teachers and students.

In three words sum up

Inspire House
DETERMINED
TEAM WORK
ORGANISATION
INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 2014

Welcome back for another school year! For the students who are continuing on with a musical instrument, notes should have gone out in the first week. I would normally start on the second Wednesday and Thursday of term but due to circumstances at one of my other schools, I have had to change one day. Please check the note to see which day your student/s will be having their lessons.

I may have space on a Tuesday afternoon for at least four students who wish to start learning a musical instrument. Learning a musical instrument can be very beneficial for a child. Not only does it assist with their reading and mathematical skills, it can improve hand-eye co-ordination and concentration as well. That is why I offer music lessons for anyone at school.

For children aged five to eight (roughly Prep to Grade Three) I offer piano, recorder, guitar and violin. These are the easiest to learn at that age, and the latter two come in different sizes to accommodate small fingers. For the older students, I also offer flute, clarinet, trumpet saxophone and drums (for anything, please enquire).

I also offer lessons of different lengths. Twenty minute lessons are ideal for those who have trouble concentrating for long periods of time or who are young, and thirty minute lessons are for the older children or those who can sit still long enough!

If you are interested in having your child or children learn an instrument, please contact me on (03) 55623975.

Melanie Pocknall
Instrumental Music Teacher
## 2014 CALENDAR

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Remember all the sports days coming up!

School Photo’s—Wed 12th March