

Parent Newsletter

Niddrie Secondary College

Dates to Remember

Sunday 20th May	Trip to Japan Departs
Wednesday 23rd to Friday 25th May	Year 12 Bushwalking Camp
Monday 30th May & Tuesday 31st May	Drama Evening
Tuesday 31st May	Injections Year 7, 10 Boys & Girls and Year 11 & 12 Girls
Friday 1st June	Drama Evening
Saturday 2nd June	Trip to Japan Returns Home
Monday 11th June	QUEENS BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th June	VCE Exams
Thursday 14th June	General Achievement Task (GAT)
Monday 18th to Friday 29th June	Year 10 Work Experience (two weeks)
Friday 29th June	Last Day of Term 2 STUDENTS DISMISSED AT 2.30PM

Message from The Principal:

We have had an extremely successful Transition week. Over one thousand Year 6 students attended the College and experienced a day at Secondary School. What was most impressive was our students who gave up their time to assist the primary students in classes. The information evening was extremely well attended with "standing room" only in the library. The dedication of teachers that evening was evident with all in attendance organising displays, conducting classes and answering questions from parents and students.

Can I acknowledge our school captains Emily Blake and Thomas Layton who were extremely articulate in explaining their relationship with the College. Their message was simple yet powerful. Niddrie is a community based on relationships where everyone; staff and students support and help each other. Thankyou Emily and Tom.

I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of Sandra Smart in the outstanding leadership she always shows in this area.

One question that has frequently been asked is if the school has an enrolment ceiling. Our response is that we do not have a regionally approved ceiling. We were in the position last year where we had more applications than we had spaces. We hope that we can manage enrolments this year, so that a ceiling does not have to be applied.

Profiling Staff

I think sometimes it is a good idea to use the newsletter to profile our dedicated staff, teaching and non-teaching. Could I take this opportunity to thank Yvonne Alegria. Yvonne is pivotal to the school, she assists in the home economics area and also is responsible with her team in ensuring our school is clean. Yvonne works extra time and will do anything asked of her. She assisted for example in the transition evening. This is after she ensured the school was sparkling. Thank you Yvonne.

Congratulations also to Sue Egan and John Crocker for achieving 35 years as leaders in education.

Ms Anne Fox

Edition 7
Friday
11th May, 2007

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YEAR 7 E-LEARNING 'DISCOVERY' NIGHT

What does a 'good writer' do? What does it mean to be a 'mathematician'? What does a scientist do? How do we use technology and computers in class to help us learn? What is a fable? What is a 'wiki' and do we use one in class? These are just some of the questions the Year 7 E-Learning students explored and presented at the first 'Discovery' night on Tuesday the 24th April.

In small groups, the Year 7s chose from a range of topics – from English, Maths and Science - explored so far this year. Once they had selected their topics, the groups were asked to consider the following questions:

1. *What have we done? What do we know about this topic?*
2. *What have we learned?*
3. *How will we present this to our audience (their parents)?*

Each group had to discuss and present, show examples of their work and learning, demonstrate to their audience how to do something and involve the parents in an activity. The parents were asked to quiz the students and ask them questions that aimed to test their understanding of their chosen topic.

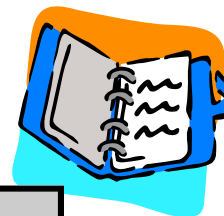
Josh Starzer, Ethan and Steven presented the steps involved as a mathematician when solving a problem while Caroline, Amber and Brett sat with parents and explained their use of a 'wiki' and collected opinions relating to the issue: 'Should secondary school students be drug tested?'. Dylan, Phoebe and Lachlan involved parents in a science experiment involving separation and Jordan, Seguija and Joshua explained their understanding of a 'fable' and shared some examples of the students' writing. Gaby and Jess showed parents how they have been using the 'Maths 300' software in Maths and at a table nearby, Ellie and Emma talked to the parents about 'what a good writer does' and demonstrated how they've been using the 'Inspiration' software when planning their writing. In a distant corner, Jarrod, Tanya and Mady had parents intrigued as they explained some of the science concepts explored in class, right down to asking parents to put on a lab-coat before they started!

Congratulations to all of the students for their hard work and enthusiasm during the night. Many thanks to Ms Bruns and Mr Freeman for their support and efforts in organising and running the night.

Mr Damien Toussaint—E-Learning Coordinator



MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT



DIARYS

It's great to see so many students using their diary to record homework. Teachers and coordinators use the diary as way to communicate to parents.

STUDENTS MUST TAKE THEIR DIARY TO EVERY CLASS

LOCKERS

The Year 9 and 10 students should be congratulated on how quickly they have embraced the use of the lockers.

The locker rules are as follows:

- No bags are to be taken to class under any circumstances.
- Students go to their locker before school to get books for P2&3.
- At the start of recess to return books and get a snack.
- At the end of recess to get books for P4&5.
- At the start of lunch to return books and get lunch.
- At the end of lunch to get books for P7&8.
- At the end of the day to return books and pack bags to go home.

WINTER UNIFORM

A reminder that all students **MUST** be in correct uniform every day. If there is a valid reason for your child not being in uniform please provide a note. With the colder weather well and truly upon us we will continue to be enforcing the uniform policy in Term 2.

Jackets are the main concern: NSC black jackets are the only jackets students are able to wear to and from and at school. As you are aware we have been monitoring students uniform and will continue to do so every day. Students not wearing the correct uniform can expect lunchtime detentions.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Well done to those Year 10 parents and students who have handed their work experience paper work. For those who have not it is vital that all paper work is handed in ASAP. Occupational Health and Safety Training will take place in English in the next week or so. Students complete both a General Test and an Industry Specific Test (paper work must be handed in so we know which industry test to give each student) Students who have not completed OH&S Training cannot go to work experience and will remain at school.

Work Experience dates are Monday 18th June to Friday 29th June.

Any students/parents who need assistance with a work experience place **MUST** see Ms Aldridge, Mr Taylor or Ms Adams ASAP for assistance.

EXAMS

Year 10 Exams are from Tuesday 12th June to Friday 15th June.

Year 9 Exams are from Thursday 14th June to Wednesday 20th June.

Students will receive a timetable soon.

Year 9 students will be involved in the Year 9 Program from Thursday 21st June to Friday 29th June. Details of this program will be sent home soon.

It is important that Middle School students start finalising class work and homework as soon as possible as the end of the term will sneak up very quickly. In addition to this students will need to start their exam preparations.

Exam preparation should not be left until the night before the exam!!!!!!

Possible Suggestions:

- Organise notes and paper.
- Read chapters covered in textbooks.
- Revise notes.
- Prepare summary notes.
- Complete all exercises covered in class.
- Conduct practise questions.



VCE REPORT



GIRL GUIDES 'WOMEN OF NOTE' BREAKFAST

Danielle Paunovic and Jessica Loschiavo were selected to attend the Girl Guides Women's Breakfast which was held today the 11th of May, at the Hilton Hotel in the city. This annual event is a terrific opportunity for female students to network with other VCE students and listen to stories of the inspirational journeys of eminent and successful women. I am sure that the girls represented us well and will try to persuade them to write a brief account of their experiences for the next bulletin!

DEBUTANTE BALL - YEAR 11

Payments are currently being accepted for tables for the annual Debutante Ball. Please forward your payments to the **General Office** as soon as possible to assist Mr Thompson with table allocation etc.

YEAR 12 CAMP

Many students have already paid for the Year 12 Study and Motivation Camp to Melbourne University. We would be most grateful if students could forward payments **and the completed Medical/Permission Form** to the **General Office** as soon as possible. Please see Ms McKay or Mr Thompson if there are any difficulties with this. All Year 12 students are required to attend the camp.



UNIVERSITY

CHANGES TO MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Parents will have heard some press reports regarding the forthcoming changes to undergraduate courses at Melbourne University. Ms Aldridge is currently preparing a briefing for students, and students will also be briefed about the changes by Melbourne University staff during the Year 12 Camp.

AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS, ENGLISH AND SCIENCE COMPETITIONS

Ms Vida is currently seeking students to enter these competitions. Any VCE student is encouraged to enter. Please see Ms Vida for details and an entry form.

VCAL STUDENTS COACH SPORTING TEAMS

I would like to congratulate those VCAL students who have volunteered to coach Junior and Middle School sporting teams. I know that Mrs Tramontanas has been most gratified by the excellent response of these very 'hands on' students.

VCE STUDENTS ENJOY SUCCESS IN THE WESTERN ZONE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to **Elyshia Sampson** who came fourth in the Girls' 100 metre Butterfly. Similarly, well done to the **Year 11 Boys' Freestyle Relay Team** who came third in their event.



UNIFORM

As the morning temperatures have begun to feel slightly chillier, we have noticed that some students are returning to the wearing of tracksuit pants and various coloured jackets. A reminder that the college jeans/pants/kilt must be worn, **not tracksuit pants**. If a jacket is worn over the college jumper, it must be plain black. If a t-shirt is to be worn under the college shirt for extra warmth, it must be plain white and preferably short sleeved. A long sleeved t-shirt is OK **only if the college jumper remains on** – i.e. we do not want to see students wearing long sleeved t-shirts under the college t-shirt, but with no jumper on. The college shirt for girls is the yellow cotton shirt, **not a white polo shirt!**

'Mastering the Exams' – Free lecture program for Year 12 students

A series of **free** mid-year exam preparation lectures is being run on **May 12 and June 2**, prior to mid-year exams. The program will assist students in optimising exam scores by maximising learning and reducing study time. Students will be taught to:

- Structure study timetables.
- Employ the most effective learning techniques.
- Maximise knowledge retention.
- Structure answers appropriately.
- Combat panic attacks & mind blanks.
- Prepare for the 'open book' style of testing in Mathematics exams.

Students may secure a booking by calling **9663 3311** or by registering online at www.tsfx.com.au

Kerry McKay – VCE COORDINATOR

Congratulations!!!



Two teachers from Niddrie were awarded certificates marking their 35 years in Education in a ceremony at Gardenhurst Receptions on Tuesday evening. Brett New, Acting Regional Manager, presented certificates to John Crocker and Sue Egan and approximately 50 other teachers from the Western Metropolitan Region who have reached this milestone. He was also one of those recognised for this achievement. When asked what some of the highlights of his career were, John Crocker referred to the wonderful school productions that have been produced at Niddrie. While Sue Egan thought that seeing students becoming enthused by reading gave her immense satisfaction. Both agreed that the lasting friendships that they had developed with both staff and students were enduring and very important.

Parents & Friends

Family Trivia Night is definitely on 22nd June 2007 in the Library.

Parents, Students, Teachers & Friends welcome.

To make this a great success we are still looking for donations. These can be in the way of a service, cash or prizes. Please assist us to make this a great fun night for all. Any services or businesses that donate will get free advertising in the newsletter and on the school website. Donations can be left at the office.

Please RSVP by 15th June – see flyer further in the Newsletter.

Second Hand Uniforms are available on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the Month.
From 8.15am to 9.15am in the storeroom near the Conference Room.

Uniform donations can be left at the office.



Congratulations to our debating team, Rhys Evans, Allan Zabradac and Ovini Jayatilake! (Year 10). The Monday before last they convinced the adjudicator that cheerleaders have no place in professional sports and, in doing so, had their second win of the season, this time beating Overnewton Christian College. Good luck to Matthew Loschiavo, Rhys Evans and Alan Zabradac when they take on P.E.G.S. next Monday night, and try to keep that unbeaten run go-

Careers... Careers... Careers...

URGENT REMINDER!

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

- Completed forms were due back in mid February.

Extra copies of forms are available from Ms Aldridge in the Careers Room.

If your child does not know what they want to do, or how to go about finding a placement, please ask them to see Ms Aldridge as soon as possible.

RMIT "EXPERIENCE ENGINEERING" SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM for VCE students, City campus, **Wednesday 11th July**, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. **FREE** and lunch provided. Interactive workshops in the school of Electrical and Computer Engineering. First hand experience of university life and an insight into a range of engineering degree programs. Three hands on sessions: The power of high voltage, Reading the mind - electrical brainwaves and the power of sleep and iRobots – the future is coming. Register at www.rmit.edu.au/sece/prospective/ekxperience - limited positions. **BOOK EARLY.**

THE AGE JOURNALISM SEMINAR. Gain further insight into the profession of journalism and the challenges and responsibilities of covering news for The Age. Includes practical tips on how to prepare for an industry that is often hard to enter. Thursday 31st May. 5.00pm to 7.00pm BMW Edge, Federation Square. Cost **\$10** per person includes a copy of The Age. Call 1800 633 766 to book your place today (payment must accompany booking).

NATIONAL CAREER EXPO THIS WEEKEND!! Hundreds of exhibitors, dozens of seminars and forums. Uni's, TAFEs, employer groups, apprenticeship groups, and more. Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Friday 11th May 9.00 to 4.00 and Saturday 12th May 10.00 to 4.00. **FREE.** Students, parents, everyone welcome.

THE MELBOURNE MODEL INFORMATION SESSIONS. Melbourne University are presenting information sessions about the changes to their programs which come into effect from next year. They invite senior students and their parents to come along on **Tuesday 15th May**, from 6.30 to 8.00pm at Ultima Reception Centre, cnr Keilor Park Drive and Ely Court, to hear about new courses, graduate pathways, scholarships, and more. Please register on 1800 801 662 or <http://melbournemodel.unimelb.edu.au> . If you can't attend this session there will be others around the metropolitan area throughout May and June.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY VCE SUMMARY LECTURES. FREE!! Unit 3 Chemistry, Accounting, Biology and Physics on June 2 and 3. Unit 3 & 4 Accounting, Management, Psychology, Legal Studies, Literature, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Maths Methods between 24th Sept and 14th Oct. Register online at www.vu.edu.au/freelectures from one month prior to date of lecture. More info call the Centre for Commencing Students on 9919 4110.

VISIT A MEDICAL LABORATORY WITH RMIT. VCE students who are interested in the laboratory investigation of disease are invited to attend this program which will be held during the 2nd week of the July holidays. Register after 14th May on www.rmit.edu.au/medical-sciences/lab-visits or contact Ralph Green on 9925 7082 or Ralph.green@rmit.edu.au for more info.

SHARP AIRLINES PILOT CADETSHIP. This program offers students flight training (fee paying), followed by 12 months work experience with a minimum of 500 hours flying time. To reserve your place at the Information day on Saturday 27th May from 11.00am to 6.00pm at Hamilton Airport, call 1300 556 694 or go to www.sharpairlines.com.au.

REMINDERS

HEALTH, MEDICINE, NURSING AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE information evenings at Deakin throughout May and July. Call 9251 7777 or email hmnbs-support@deakin.edu.au for more information. Events at Deakin can be found at www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/important-dates.php.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS? – Parent and Student Information Night. Wednesday 8th August, at Lakeside Banquet and Reception Centre, Keilor-Melton Road, Taylors Lakes from 6.00pm to 9.15pm. Contact David Collett on 0439 006 934 or david@wlcp.com.au for more information.

TAKE TO THE SKIES - TRIAL INTRODUCTORY FLIGHT - GIRLS ONLY! Experience a general aviation Trial Instructional Flight (TIF). Entry details on the AWPA website, www.awpa.org.au, applications close 30th May 2007. Contact Grace Slater, National President, Australian Women Pilot's Association, national.president@awpa.org.au.

COURSE INFORMATION SEMINARS. The Australian College of Natural Medicine, 368 Elizabeth Street, opposite Melbourne Central station. Courses in Acupuncture, Aromatherapy, Herbal Medicine, Homeopathy, Massage, Naturopathy, Reflexology and more.

TALK AND TOUR AT LA TROBE UNIVERSITY. Thursday 12th July, Tuesday 25th September, 10.30 to 1.00. Ring 1300 135 045 to book. Families welcome.

ACCESS ALL AREAS. A behind the scenes look at Melbourne Uni for year 10 to 12 students and their families. **Friday 13th July.** Further information and to register www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/about/meetstaff/vic/allareas or 1800 801 662

A DAY IN THE LIFE LA TROBE UNIVERSITY, BENDIGO. Year 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents are invited to experience La Trobe University Bendigo. From **17th April to 26th June.** More details at www.latrobe.edu.au/prospective-bendigo/uep.html

AT MONASH SEMINAR SERIES. Course and career information for Year 11 and 12 students and parents. 16 different seminars. First seminar Tuesday **17th April, final seminar 31st May 2007.** All Seminars begin at 6.30pm. For details go to www.monash.edu.au/study/events/atmonash/booking-form.html

CAREERS AT THE ZOO – WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO. Hurry – spaces filling fast. For students in Years 9 to 12. Cost is **\$38.50** - covers seminars, guided Safari tour, resource kit and morning tea. 9.20am to 2.45pm. **Tuesday 3rd July, Thursday 5th July, Tuesday 10th July, Tuesday 24th July and Thursday 26th July.** See Ms Aldridge.

ACCOUNTING CADETSHIPS. The Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia are holding an information session for Year 12 students and their parents on **Wednesday 23rd May, 6.00pm** at AFL World, 292 Swanston Street, Melbourne. **FREE** but you must register at www.charteredaccountants.com.au/students.

PLANNING TO STUDY MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, OPTOMETRY, PHARMACY OR PHYSIOTHERAPY?

You may need to sit the UMAT (Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test). Not all Universities require this test for entry, so please check the VTAC guide. UMAT is not a medical knowledge test or a personality or IQ test. It is designed to test general attributes and abilities, skills in critical thinking and problem solving, understanding people and abstract non-verbal reasoning. Practice tests are available for purchase or students may choose to enrol in a preparation program. Registrations close on Friday 1st June 2007 and the test will be held on Wednesday 25th July 2007. See Ms Aldridge for more information.

WIN A NIGHT AT A
LUXURY HOTEL

Niddrie Secondary College FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

RAFFLE
PRIZES

Parents, Students, Teachers & Friends
are invited to attend on

Lucky
Numbers

FRIDAY 22ND JUNE, 2007 at 7.00pm

In the College Library (enter via Albert Street)

\$10.00 per Adult and \$5.00 per Student

COIN
TOSS

Bring your own supper and soft drinks (no alcohol permitted)
Coffee & Tea will be supplied.

Book tables of 6, 8 or 10 with the General Office.

DOOR
PRIZE

Individual bookings can also be made and you can join one of our
teams.

Local traders and the school community have donated some great prizes for raf-
fles, door prizes and other games.

Please come along for a night of fun at the same time supporting your
school with all profits raised going to update seating and reference
material in the Library.

To book please ring the school on 9337 2488 or return the slip below to
the General Office along with full payment by Friday 15th June, 2007.



GREAT PRIZE FOR WINNING TABLE

NIDDRIE SECONDARY COLLEGE FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT REPLY SLIP

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Number of people: _____

Adults @ \$10.00 and Students @ \$5.00 = Total Amount Payable \$ _____