

Parent Newsletter

Niddrie Secondary College

Message from The Principal:

The College has a strong welfare and discipline structure. The tutor group teachers within the school are:

12A	Ian Miller	9GV	Maria Genovese
12B	Annette Therik	9JM	Jim McCalman
12C	Stephen Smart	9ND	Nina De Goederen
12D	Michael Sioukas	9RH	Rob Houghton
12E	Anna Vida	8AF	Andy Flouris
11A	Alfio Raiti	8DV	Daria Villani
11B	Ben Freeman	8FG	Frank Gaglioti
11C	Joe Said	8FW	Francis Witwicki
11D	Paul Rossitto	8GB	Giuseppe Bertoli
11E	Jennifer Tramontanas	8JT	Judi Tarn
11F	Louise Jones	8ME	Cori Mueller
10A	Paul Barron/Bruna Pomella	8NG	Natalia Gainsmith
10B	Peter Hevey	7BU	Lody Boulos
10C	Rebecca Moscogiuri	7DT	Damien Toussaint
10D	Marissa Mortellaro	7EB	Erin Bruns
10E	Jo May	7KD	Kristyan D'Aprano
10F	John Crocker	7MV	Maria Viglione
9AP	Andy Patch	7NH	Nellie Harbourd/George Pavlidis
9DC	David Copping	7SE	Sue Egan
9FO	Abdullah Ford		

Kerry McKay – VCE Co-ordinator
Colin Thompson – Year 12 Co-ordinator
Vince Murone – Year 11 Co-ordinator
Sam Adams – Middle School Co-ordinator
Paul Taylor – Year 10 Co-ordinator
Graeme Schultz – Year 9 Co-ordinator
Arthur Soumalias – Junior School Co-ordinator
Dora Bouras – Year 8 Co-ordinator
Anthony Cotroneo – Year 7 Co-ordinator

Parents who have any concerns are urged to contact the co-ordinator or tutor group teacher immediately.

Reminder: Locker Hire is part of the Resource Package—\$190.00 for Years 7 to 10 and \$220.00 for VCE. Students who don't have a lock from 2006 can purchase one at a cost of \$22.00 from the General Office.

Ms Anne Fox

Edition 2
Friday
16th February, 2007

Sapphire Street, Niddrie, 3042
Telephone: 9337 2488 Fax: 9331 0525
Email: niddrie.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parking Concerns

The congestion after school in Sapphire Street has been brought to our attention.

May we suggest that if you are picking up an older child that you arrange to meet in one of the surrounding streets, or alternatively further down Sapphire Street across Rosehill Road, this will hopefully reduce the congestion in the immediate vicinity of the school.

Also a reminder that parking officers regularly patrol the streets around the school and will not hesitate in giving you a fine should you be illegally parked.

Niddrie Secondary College Tuition Program

The tuition program at Niddrie Secondary College recommenced on Monday 12th February, for its fifth year running.

Tuition in all key learning areas including English, Maths and Science will be available on Monday afternoons from 3.30pm—4.30pm in the school library. Students of all year levels are invited to attend for that extra support and encouragement in the completion of their class work, research and assignments and homework. Students may see this tuition as an extension of their normal Monday school day and simply stay back at school to gain that extra assistance required. Students will therefore continue to learn in the comfort of their own school environment. Monday afternoon tuition will provide students with the opportunity to gain assistance in a number of subject areas and not just one as would normally be the case if the students were receiving costly private tuition at home. This tuition program at NSC aims to enhance students' skills in **literacy** and **numeracy** and in providing them with the study techniques to be confident and independent learners.

For further information regarding the tuition program, please see Ms De Goederen or telephone me on 9337 2488.

ITALIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM 2007

We are very pleased to announce the continuation of the Exchange Program to Italy in September 2007. The Exchange Program to Italy will be with **Blaise Pascal Technical Institute** in Reggio Emilia, central Italy. The exchange program will be offered to students of Italian in **Years 9, 10 11 & 12**, an opportunity to travel to Italy for three weeks in September 2007.

The trip is planned for the last week of Term 3 and the September school holidays. The group will be staying with families from the school and students will be attending some classes at the school with their host siblings as well as general sightseeing. Hotel accommodation will only be required in Rome and Venice. The group will return in time for the start of Term 4. It is also anticipated that Italian students hosting our group this year will be coming to Australia in 2008 in a reciprocal arrangement.

Should you be interested in further information, collect a letter with an expression of interest form, an estimate of costs, an itinerary and a map of Italy from **Maria Viglione** or **Giuseppe Bertoli**.

EMA 2007

Parents/Guardians who hold an eligible health care card from the 30th January, 2007 can apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance.

Forms are available from the General Office and applications must be lodged at the school by Wednesday 28th February, 2007.

DoE will not accept late applications.

The Art Department

The Art Department needs interesting materials to create wonderful artworks. We need water containers, yoghurt tubs, ice-cream containers or any plastic bowls.

If you have anything you think we could use please contact Jo May in the Art Department.

Computer Skills Competition

This is an invitation to *all students in Years 7 to 12* who are interested in participating in the Computer Skills Competition to be held at school on Thursday March 29th, 2007. The cost of the competition is \$6.00. Interested students need to collect a permission form from Ms Vida's office before Thursday 1st March, 2007.



Trip to Japan - 2007

WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE FIRST MEETING OF PARENTS AND STUDENTS ON WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AT 7.00PM IN THE STAFFROOM REGARDING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRIP TO JAPAN IN MAY, 2007. WE NEED TO UPDATE INFORMATION AND DISCUSS FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES, AND PROVIDE A FINAL ITINERARY AND ALL EXPENSES.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND, PLEASE CONTACT MRS SMART OR MR HAYAKAWA.

For Sale

Niddrie Secondary College
VCE Jumper

Size 12

\$20.00

Phone: 9370 1526

Wanted to buy.....

- Volare 1
- Humanities Alive 2

Contact Julieanne—0405 108 484

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 28th February

Swimming Carnival

Monday 12th March

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Friday 30th March

Last Day of Term 1

Students dismissed at 2.30pm

School Council Elections—Information for Parents 2007

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education (DoE) employees can be Parent members at their child's school.

A mandated elected DoE employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DoE employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the Parent category or DoE employee category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. Nomination Forms are available from the General Office.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

School Council Elections—Information for Parents 2007 cont....

When does Niddrie Secondary College Council meet?

School Council meets twice a term, usually on the fourth Monday of the month (excluding School Holidays) for approximately 1½ to 2 hours commencing at 5.15pm.

Remember

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Consider standing for election to council this year.

Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the Business Manager, Judith Wright (9337 2488) for further information.

Schedule 4 - Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Niddrie Secondary College.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on Friday 23rd February 2007.

The ballot will close at 4 pm on Friday 9th March 2007.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2007 ⁺ to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2009 [*]	3
DoE employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2007 ⁺ to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2009 [*]	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Anne Fox—**Principal**

“Electorate of the school” means the DoE employee electorate of the school and the Parent electorate of the school.

“Parent electorate of the school” means all persons (except the principal) who are parents of students of the school, other than those who are DoE employees and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DoE employee electorate of the school.

“DoE employee electorate of the school” means the principal of the school and –

DoE employees engaged in work at and for the school (other than those who are parents of students of the school and who neither opt nor are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DoE employee electorate of the school); and

other DoE employees who are parents of students of the school and who opt or are deemed to opt in accordance with clause 22 to be members of the DoE employee electorate of the school.

“DoE employee” -

(a) means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -

- (i) under the *Teaching Service Act 1981*; or
- (ii) under the *Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998*; or
- (iii) by a school council of a State school; or
- (iv) under section 5 or 5A of the *Education Act 1958*; or
- (v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and

(b) does not mean a person employed under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.

5. Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.

VCE REPORT

Welcome back to all students for the 2007 academic year. It will certainly be an exciting time with the first group of VCAL students commencing this year; we wish them well and I am confident that they will be well-supported by their coordinator, **Ms. Hampson. Colin Thompson (Year 12 Coordinator)** and I welcome **Mr. Vince Murone** back to the VCE Team as **Year 11 Coordinator**. Having worked with Mr. Murone in the past, I look forward to receiving the benefits of his experience and expertise at the senior end of the College.

In 2006 our Year 12 students again performed extremely well and secured an excellent range of tertiary places.

- **64 of the 72 students who applied received an offer – 88%. Some of these students actually received 2 offers, meaning that the total number of offers made to our students was 76.**
- **Of those 72 students, approx. 46 received Higher Education offers (63%)**
- **Approx. 37% received TAFE offers**

Happily, many students received their first or second preferences (70%) which bears testament to the excellent counselling offered by our **Careers Counsellor, Dianne Aldridge**. We are expecting that several students will receive Third Round Offers shortly.

Leaving the school yard during the day.

VCE students are **not** permitted to leave the school yard during the school day unless it is to go home after their **final class** of the day. Specifically, this means that students cannot go to the local shops for lunch, Keilor Road for coffee, etc. The school is legally responsible for students during the day and we cannot fulfil that responsibility adequately if students are not in the College grounds.

We have encouraged students to abandon the idea of class free periods during the day as being 'spares'. Periods free of classes, other than lunch times, are not 'spares', they are **private study periods** and must be used appropriately. Students should be working in the VCE Centre or library. Thus, in the interests of safety and encouraging an academic environment, we are hoping that parents and students will understand that we must punish students who leave the College grounds, in order to deter others contemplating the same action.

Lockers

All students are required to have a locker by March 1. Bags are no longer permitted in class. Mr. Murone and Mr. Thompson have been busy allocating lockers. At present there is a slight shortfall of lockers for Year 11 students, but we are anticipating the arrival of more lockers very shortly.

Lockers should be paid for at the General Office as part of the **Resource Charge**. A College lock must also be purchased for an additional **\$22**. Students are not permitted to supply their own locks, and such locks will be removed from the locker.

Uniform

VCE uniform has generally been quite pleasing, although some of our students have taken advantage of the warm weather to forgo the wearing of socks. Socks must be worn by all students. If students opt to wear low sport socks, they must be visible above the top of the shoe. Socks for girls should either be 'college brown' socks or the white socks currently preferred by most girls. A few students persist in flouting other aspects of the Uniform Code and such students will be sent home to change. An explanatory note from a parent will cover a short term uniform infringement (i.e. 1 or 2 days), but cannot be used for a longer period of time (e.g. a week or longer).

Change of Subjects

Year 12 students would be most unwise to contemplate changing subjects at this point. Year 11 students should also have settled into classes by now and have organised any subject changes. No subject changes at either level will be permitted from the end of Week 4 onwards. Year 11 students do, however, have the option of changing subjects at mid year if they so desire. Students will not be permitted to 'drop' a subject at any time, without selecting a replacement; i.e. all VCE students must undertake a full program of study.

Gifted and Talented Conference

Mr. Murone has information regarding a one day conference for 'Gifted and Talented' students on the first Wednesday of Term 2. Topics under discussion are 'The Nature and Beauty of Mathematics', 'Human Genetic Engineering', 'Can Humans Survive Death?', 'Different Ways of Understanding Truth', 'Sex in the 21st Century' and 'The Contribution of Psychology and Sociology to an understanding of what it is to be Human'. The cost is \$25.00. Students who are interested should see Mr. Murone for further details.

Contacting Us

Email is an easy way of contacting the VCE Team. Our edumail addresses are listed below. The College is no longer using the previous Groupwise addresses.

thompson.colin.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

murone.vince.v@edumail.vic.gov.au

mckay.kerry.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

INTERNET ADVICE FOR PARENTS 2007

Children need parents and carers to teach them how to make smart choices about who and what they find online, to deal with commercial material, safeguard their privacy, to have a positive experience when meeting people online, and use their time on the Internet effectively.

The types of rules you may have made about how to deal with strangers and what children can watch on television or video are also relevant to the Internet.

There are some general principles that apply to children in most age groups:

- Involve the family.
- Set some appropriate guidelines for Internet use and discuss them with the children you care for.
- Take an interest in the new sites children are finding online and spend time exploring with them.
- This will help children retain your values for when you cannot be together.
- Keep in touch with what children are doing online.
- Put the computer with the Internet access in a public area of the home, such as the living room, rather than a child's bedroom or playroom.
- Have family talks about the Internet and encourage children to let you know if they come across anything disturbing.
- With older children, you may choose to discuss the nature of material found on the Internet.
- Remember that children will have access to the Internet not only at home, but also at other places they frequent such as schools, friends houses and libraries. Mobile Internet Devices such as phones and PDA s are also being used by a number of children today for Internet access.
- By allowing children to make informed decisions about the content they access, and by developing a sense of trust at home, your children will be in a good position to use the Internet in a responsible way when they are away from the home environment.

Kids on the Net

"This is a wake up call for parents to get more involved in their children's Internet lives. But the good news is that by simply moving the location of the family PC, taking a greater interest in what our kids are doing online and talking to them about it, we can make an immediate difference." Martin Hoffman, former CEO of Ninemsn.

Facts from The 'Online Safety for Teens' survey conducted by NetAlert and Ninemsn.

- 43% of teenage boys have downloaded files that they didn't want their parents to know about
- 50% of parents believe they always know what sites their children visit
- 56% of parents thought they had enough information about online safety
- More than half of parents claimed that they had better Internet knowledge than their children
- 24% of teens claim that their parents are never around when they are online. 6% of parents claimed that they were never around when their children were online
- The older the children, the less likely it is that their parents will join them online
- 71% of parents believe their children use the internet for research, while only 23% of teens say they research online.
- 55% of all parents claimed that they were checking their children's online behaviour by watching them.

INTERNET ADVICE FOR PARENTS 2007 cont....

1. Always be alert when on the Internet while there are some excellent sites to visit there are also some bad ones like pornography, animal cruelty and hate sites.
2. If something appears on your screen that disturbs you, tell your friends, a teacher or parent or phone the NetAlert help line on 1800 880 176 or email enquiries@netalert.net.au for some advice on what to do. Remember you will not get into any trouble by letting people know what you have stumbled across.
3. If you hear or see your friends getting into places that look unsuitable, remind them of the potential dangers and advise them on how to get out of the site.
4. Keep all personal information to yourself (including photos, your name, the name of your school, the name of your family members and your phone number). Strangers might use your personal information in a way that you never intended them to.
5. Chat Rooms are great ways to talk to people but be aware that some people in them are not who they say they are. If someone or something disturbs you in a Chat Room, leave and find another one where there are people you like. Talk to your parents, carers or teachers about advice on how to deal with Stranger Danger.
6. Remember not everything you read on the Internet is true. Be smart and make decisions for yourself on what you think is right and wrong.
7. Be careful downloading free games or files. Sometimes people can trick you into clicking on a link that sends you to an Unsafe Zone or makes your computer download a Virus.
8. Only give your mobile phone number to your family and friends and if you start getting upsetting or annoying text messages, tell a teacher or parent.
9. Always seek help from adults or friends. Mum and dad might not know as much about the Internet as you, but they know about life and together you can work out any problem that you might encounter when online.

Source: And for other fact sheets in this series visit: www.netalert.net.au

REMINDER - Year 10 Work Experience - Monday 18 June to Friday 29 June 2007.

A reminder that completed and signed forms are due back on **February 16**. A letter and the Work Experience forms were sent out to all Year 9 parents in November 2006. If you have lost the form or are having problems finding a place, please see Ms Aldridge in the Careers Room as soon as possible. Some very organized Year 9 students have already been to see me about next year's Work Experience - great to see they are planning ahead.

All of Year 10 will complete the [Safe@Work](#) Occupational Health and Safety training before they go out on Work Experience. No students will be permitted to take part in Work Experience unless they have successfully completed [Safe@Work](#).

A quick reminder of the value of Work Experience - many students find part time work and apprenticeships through work experience, others find out that the reality of a certain occupation can be very different to how they imagined it would be. **NOTE:** If students are not out on Work Experience they are required to attend classes at school.

Melbourne International Airshow Careers and Skills Showcase

This year the Airshow will include a Career and Skills Showcase on the weekend of 24 and 25 March. The theme of the Showcase will be "Breaking the Barriers" in aviation, aerospace and defence careers. Major companies in the industry will provide information on career opportunities, where the jobs really are and skills and training pathways. The latest technologies will be on display and you can listen to young people currently working in the industry talk about their experiences. There will be a "give it a go" hands on exhibition. This is a "must attend" event for anyone considering a career in aviation, aerospace or defence. For more information go to <http://www.airshow.net.au/airshow2007>

Introducing the New Student Report Cards and Assessment scale for Year 7 – 10 students

Dear Parent/Guardian

This year the Victorian Government requires all schools to introduce the New Student Report Cards.

In June you will receive a report on your child's progress. The report will provide you with a comprehensive snapshot of your child's achievements, as well as what the school and you can do to support your child's future learning.

More details about the New Student Report Cards

Some of the main points that you might want to note about the New Student Report Cards are explained below.

Consistency across all government schools

All schools using the New Student Report Card will report student progress in the same way, and against the same state-wide standards.

Progress against the statewide standards

You will be able to see your child's current progress against the state-wide standard expected for the year level as well as, starting next year, the progress he or she has made over the past twelve months.

A graphic incorporating an A-E rating, together with teacher comment will provide you with a clear, overall picture of your child's achievements as well as information on any areas for improvement or extension.

In reading this report it is important to remember that the 'A' to 'E' ratings have a specific meaning that is consistent in all Victorian schools. On the new report card, no matter which school your child attends, a 'B' rating will always mean that your child is above the statewide standard expected at the time of year. A 'C' rating will always mean your child has achieved the statewide standard expected at this time of the year, and their learning is firmly on track.

The box headed 'Ratings' on the report card tells you exactly what each of the 'A'-'E' ratings means, and it is important to refer to these, as well as the more detailed written comments, to get a clear picture of your child's progress against the standards.

Home-school partnership

The New Student Report Cards will assist in further strengthening our home-school partnership. As well as outlining on the Report Card what we are going to do to support your child's learning, we will provide you with suggestions about how to help your child at home.

Student involvement in reporting

Students will also play a role in thinking about their progress at school. All students will develop and document learning goals on their Report Card, and comment on the progress they have made towards them.

In addition to the new report card students will experience a new assessment structure. The introduction of the A – E scale to record the students' VELS achievement has made it necessary to develop a new scale for the recording of School Assessed Coursework (SAC). The following scale will be used immediately for students in Year 7 to 10.

HD – High Distinction will replace the A

D – Distinction will replace the B

C – Credit will replace the C

P – Pass will replace the D

N - Not Satisfactory will replace the E and UG

More information, and answers to any questions you may have can be found at the New Student Report Card website <http://dev.sofweb.vic.edu.au/studentreports/index.htm>.

Sandra Smart—Assistant Principal