



Parent Newsletter

EDITION 6 - Friday 24th April 2009

TERM 2 WEEK 1

Welcome to the start of Term 2. This term is traditionally a very busy one ending in student exams and End of Semester reports. Bear in mind that exams are only a part of the ongoing assessment process but it can still become a time of pressure for students. If parents and teachers work together in ensuring successful outcomes for students much of the anxiety can be alleviated.

In a month's time students will sit the NAPLAN tests. There is more information in this Newsletter about these tests and I urge you to read it closely. As well as this testing, surveys of note taking place are:

- **Student Attitude to School Survey:** This survey takes place annually. It is an Education Department process and the students answer a range of questions about the school, the teachers and other students. Our results in this survey are usually quite good.
- **Adolescent Health and Well Being Survey:** This survey is supported by the Victorian Government and looks at adolescent health issues. Selected students will be involved in the survey, but only with parental consent.

Facilities

Work on our new VCE centre has begun and as I write this information demolition of the old garages is taking place. The expected finishing date is around August 7th and an official opening ceremony is planned for August 21st. This means that for most of Term 3, and the rest of the year, our Year 12 students will have access to the centre. It is an exciting project which will have a major impact on the school.

The shade sails on the top oval will be finalised early next week. Each sail is 10 square meters in size and given that there are three of them they will provide excellent outdoor areas for students.

We are currently waiting for a funding announcement to upgrade our Art teaching and learning environment. If we are successful this project will begin almost immediately and be completed by the start of 2010.

Pupil free days

Parents need to be aware that there are only two pupil-free days this term. They are on Monday 8th June (Queen's Birthday) and Friday 12th June (Report Writing). There is no ANZAC day public holiday.

The only other time that will impact on families is an early dismissal time for our Open Afternoon and Evening on Thursday, 7th May. On all other days students are required to be in full attendance, including the last day of each term. It has come to our attention that some students may tell parents that not much happens on the last day of term and it is not worth going to school. This is simply not the case. Most students attend on that day and teachers will often run assessment tasks to ensure this happens.

Uniform

There is a notice in this newsletter about the uniform and some minor issues we are having with regards to the way it is being worn. Please take note of this information. Overall we are extremely proud of the uniform and our students.

Peter Rousse

UNIFORM

Please note that from *Monday 3rd May* all students will be required to be in the new College Winter Uniform (with the exception of Year 12 students who may continue to wear the former uniform).

It is pleasing to see the majority of students wearing the new uniform correctly.

A number of reminders with regard the new uniform:

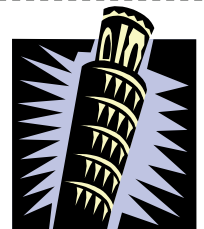
1. Girls are required to wear navy tights not black.
2. Boys summer shirt is not to be worn with the winter uniform.
3. Girls are not to wear the boys' short sleeved summer shirt with their winter uniform.
4. No beanies or 'hoodies' are to be worn to or from school.
5. Coloured t-shirts are not to be worn under the College shirt, a white t-shirt is

NAPLAN TESTING - Year 7 and 9 Students

The NAPLAN state-wide testing program for Year 7 and 9 students will occur from Tuesday, 12th May to Thursday, 14th May, 2009.

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a child's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. Each test takes from 40 - 65 minutes to complete. Students will undertake a total of five tests over the three day period; one test each for Language Conventions, Reading and Writing, and two tests for Numeracy (calculator assisted and non-calculator assisted). All testing will occur during Periods 2 and 4. Students will be provided with a timetable closer to the testing period.

Italy Study Tour 2010



An Information Evening has been organised for interested families:

*Tuesday 28th April
Rosehill Secondary College at 6.00pm in the Staffroom.*

We have also invited Sandy Colombo from Trekset Tours to discuss the proposed itinerary, costs, travel insurance and other essential details. We look forward to meeting you on the

PARENTS VICTORIA ONLINE CONFERENCE - 18—24 May 2009

PARENTS of primary and secondary students, in all locations, are warmly invited to take part in the third online conference to be held by Parents Victoria. The conference will be held non-stop on the internet from 6.00am Monday 18th May to midnight Sunday 24th May. No special software is needed, other than an internet-connected computer and a browser. The online discussions will be very easy to join in, and guidelines about how to participate will be provided. You don't need to be a member of Parents Victoria to take part. Join in for all days, just some days, or even a few hours, depending on your lifestyle and other commitments.

Prizes for participation

An interactive whiteboard will be won by the Parents Victoria member school that has the greatest number of individual participants over the entire conference. To be eligible, participants must be correctly registered and leave at least one comment on the discussion boards.

In addition, one of three notetbooks will be won by:

1. The member school with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the week long question.
2. The school with the most correctly registered individual participants who comment on the question re parental engagement.
3. The member school with the most correctly registered individual participants who leave comments on the daily questions on either Saturday 23rd May or Sunday 24th May.

**Member schools are defined as schools whose 2009 membership payment has been received by 15th May 2009. Membership information can be obtained by phone (03) 93802158 or email office@parentsvictoria.asn.au*

Register online at no cost

The Parents Victoria Online Conference 2009 website will open from 6am on Monday 18 May at: http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv1_09/ but please register yourself online first at <http://www.cybertext.net.au/pv09.htm>

The conference will feature seven 'live' daily online discussions, each of them hosted, for several hours each day, by a member of Parents Victoria or expert staff from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the VSCA. Each 24-hour period will focus on a topic that is currently of concern to parents. An online 'resource bundle' of information and opinions will also be provided as an optional extra to give you a kick-start on each day's topic.

There will also be one continuous week-long online discussion on the topic: **'What support do parents need to be active participants in their children's learning and development?'**

Each day (the exact date for each topic will be advised soon), the conference will discuss one of the following questions:

- **Parent/teacher meetings** - how could these meetings be improved?
- **School attendance** - when is it okay to stay away?
- **Transition** - what could be done to improve transition from one level of schooling to the next, i.e. kindergarten to primary, year 6 to secondary?
- **Cyberbullying** - how do we keep our children safe?
- **Sex education** - who's responsible?
- **Banning confectionery from school canteens** - tell us your thoughts (this will be hosted on Thursday 21st May by Prue Cerin from the Victorian School Canteen Association)
- **Parental engagement** - What can be done to get more parents involved in their children's schools? Hosted by DEECD.

April 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun	Week
27	28 Italian Study Tour 2010 Information Evening at 6.00pm in the Staffroom	29 MPW Secondary School Expo 4.00pm to 7.30pm STEP Testing 9.30am	30			Week 2

May 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat/Sun	Week
				1	2/3	Week 2
4	5	6	7 OPEN DAY 3pm to 7.30pm Students Dismissed 1.15pm Vaccinations	8	9/10	Week 3
11	12 NAPLAN Testing Year 7 & 9 Language Conventions & Writing	13 NAPLAN Testing Year 7 & 9 Reading VCE Netball VCE Football	14 NAPLAN Testing Year 7 & 9 Mathematics	15	16/17	Week 4
18	19	20	21 Senior Boys Soccer	22 Interim Reports Distributed in Home Room in the Afternoon	23/24	Week 5
25	26 Intermediate Girls Netball	27	28	29 VCE Boys & Girls Basketball	30/31	Week 6

VACCINATIONS

Year 7 girls will receive the second of their Human Papilloma Virus vaccinations on *Thursday, 7th May*. Even though this is our Open Evening and an early finish for students is planned, all students are expected to attend school on this day and it is particularly imperative for those girls having the vaccine to be present. A small number of more senior girls also commenced the vaccination series in March; it is important that these girls are also present for the second vaccine.

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A sample book can be viewed at the General Office or visit