

THE

THE NEWSLETTER



DATES TO REMEMBER

21st April, 2017

Middle School Assembly 1.45pm
Junior School Assembly 2.50pm

24th April, 2017

Year Four/Year Six Swimming
Program 11am-2pm

25th April, 2017

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

26th April, 2017

Whole College Assembly 8.40am

27th April, 2017

THRASS Parent Information
Afternoon

26th-27th April, 2017

Year Four/Year Six Swimming
Program 11am-2pm

02nd May, 2017

- * Middle & Senior School Debating
- * South East Careers Expo
Year 10 Period 1-4
- *

03rd May, 2017

- ◆ Year 4 Maths Games (am)
- ◆ Thalassaemia Parent Seminar - 3.45pm - ICT Room
- ◆ Enterprise Ship Leadership Excursion

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for Term 2 with what promises to be a very busy Term. The Year Seven students started off the Term by attending Camp. On the visit to site the students seemed to be having an enjoyable time.

Please note the following amendments to Working with Children's Checks which come into effect from 1st August 2017. The following amendments to the Act implement these recommendations:

Expand the definition of 'direct contact' in the Act

The definition of direct contact will now include oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact.

2. Remove 'supervision' from the Act

The removal of references to 'supervision' from the Act will mean that even if a person's contact with children as part of their child-related work is supervised by another person, they will still need to apply for a Check.

3. Require kinship carers to obtain a Check

People caring for a child placed by Child Protection under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* will be required to obtain a Check.

4. Consider non-conviction charges

Non-conviction charges (charges that have been finally dealt with other than by a conviction or finding of guilt) for serious sexual, violent or drug offences will be able to be considered as part of Check assessments and re-assessments.

4. Compel information

The Secretary to the Department of Justice and Regulation will now be able to compel the production of certain information for the purposes of compliance monitoring.

Sareh Salarzadeh
Principal

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION

Student expectations

At Mt Hira College it is expected that all students will face challenging and stimulating work on a daily basis. Academic achievement and success are not expected to come easily and in order to achieve their potential students must focus on developing positive working habits.

It is important that a greater sense of urgency is displayed by students within the College. This means that many of our students must place higher expectations on themselves and then put the necessary steps in place to achieve these expectations. These expectations are obviously relevant to their particular year level as learning development is progressive and more is expected of Middle and Senior School students than is of Junior School students.

A few strategies that may assist students to increase self-motivation, performance and individual expectations;

- Set some very clear short and long term goals to achieve. Discuss these with relevant teachers and within families. This increases accountability.
- Lifestyle balance – Parents can assist children in getting a balance of all activities that increase likelihood of academic success. Areas here could include minimising screen time, minimal social media and mobile phone use, engaging in physical activity, getting outdoors, reading and participating in family activities/events.
- Reading on a daily basis – particularly Junior and Middle School students.
- Utilising SEQTA learn. All students in Middle/Senior school should be accessing this regularly.
- Attend school whenever you are physically able to do so
- Sit in an appropriate learning position within the classroom (e.g. at the front of the class)
- Seek teachers support and gather as much feedback as possible
- Participate (positively) in classroom discussion
- Submit practice assessment tasks to teachers in Senior School
- Complete recommended homework and reading tasks
- Utilising an appropriate study method that fits in with a students' individual learning style.
- Do not be satisfied with a moderate level of achievement when you are capable of greater success.
- Do not fear making mistakes. Making an error provides an important learning opportunity because it allows you to analyse what you did incorrectly and to learn a better way of doing something.

Mr. Tim Campbell

Assistant Principal (Administration)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - ACADEMIC AND INNOVATION

To complement the introduction of Literacy for Learning from Year Three onwards, we have introduced the writing programme, **Big Write & VCOP** (vocabulary, connectives, openers and punctuation) for our very young students in Foundation to Year Two. This is a very exciting development that will promote the writing and expression skills of our students. Please familiarise yourself with information from the website www.andrellelleducation.com.au/



Big Write and VCOP is designed to bring the fun back into writing, to make the children want to write and to be continuously challenged throughout the writing journey. Through games, activities, writing tasks, conversations and discussions, students will learn not only where their abilities lie in a fun and engaging way, but also the steps they need to take, in order to continue to improve.

Big Write and VCOP is a methodology for raising the standards in writing across all ages and ability levels throughout Australasia. It seeks to address the reasons why there are falling standards in writing. Based on the premise that '*if they can't say it, they can't write it*', we scaffold the learning to allow children to become articulate thinkers and speakers, who will then become articulate writers. It is a differentiated approach suitable for pre-writers, all the way through secondary school. Underpinning the progress the students will achieve is the 'back to basics' approach of teaching the building blocks of writing through the use of the GHaSP method.

Big Write comes with a comprehensive, evidence-based assessment tool (linked to the Australian National Curriculum), that develops consistency and accuracy of writing assessment right across your school. The Student Friendly Criterion Scale empowers the children by allowing them to analyse where their skill set lies, and specifically what steps they need to take in order to move forward.

Julie Parker
Assistant Principal - Academic and Innovation

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO FEDERATION SQUARE

On Wednesday 29th of March, the year six students went on an excursion to Federation Square to learn more about businesses/economics.

When we arrived at our destination we were met by our tour guides Meyer and Eve who showed us around alleyways and businesses while explaining their histories. They also explained about the city's history and how it started from a large land to what it is now.

We also learned about street art, music and literature and why it plays an important role in Australian economy.

Overall, the excursion was educational and fun.

By: Zeina Mohamed (6N)



YEAR SIX EXCURSION TO THE MELBOURNE TENNIS CENTRE



More photos can be seen on the Mt. Hira website



On the 18th of April 2017, the year 6's went on an excursion to the Melbourne Tennis Centre. The first activity we did was watch a presentation about the ANZAC War, that was extremely educating and interesting. After that we walked over to the tennis courts to go and play some tennis. We played a couple of tennis games and practiced hitting the ball. After a quick snack we went to the Tennis Centre, where we caught a glimpse of Roger Federer and other famous player's lockers. We also went inside the press room where we learnt that this is where the player's go straight after they finish with their game. Just then, the evacuation alarm went off, the tour guide wasn't aware of the emergency but we were still required to evacuate. Unfortunately, that's where our trip ended, and we got back on the bus to go back to school. Overall, it was an interesting, fun and educating trip.

Inaaya Hanif (6N)

YEAR FIVE WITH THE ST. KILDA FOOTBALL CLUB

