



Mount Erin College

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Newsletter

Issue 4: 10th May 2017

Principal's Report

I am thrilled to announce that Mount Erin College has received **\$2.13 million** in the State Budget last week. These funds are to be used to modernise the facilities available to our students. We are still in discussion about how these funds will be put to best use in the College.

I received a letter from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, the **Honourable James Merlino**, stating:

'The Government Andrews Labor Government has announced a \$1.1 billion education package, continuing its commitment to make Victoria the Education State. Having modern and up-to-date classrooms and facilities in our schools is a fundamental part of ensuring that every child has the best possible education. I am delighted to confirm that the Andrews Government has allocated \$2,130,000 in capital works funding to your school.'

This is very exciting news for our College. The process begins within two weeks and a clear timeline has been outlined. It is anticipated that building will commence in September next year, 2018. I will keep the school community informed once I have clarity around what projects these funds can be put towards. I would like to take the opportunity to **thank Paul Edbrooke**, our local Member of Parliament and member of the State Government. Mr Edbrooke has been a strong supporter of our College and has worked tirelessly to ensure Frankston schools and the Frankston community have benefited from the 2017 budget. Thank you Mr Edbrooke.



Open Night this year was held on Thursday 27th of April. It was a great show-case of all that makes Mount Erin so special. Staff across all areas of the school had prepared exhibits and students came to talk about all the things they

do at the College. I was extremely proud of the high calibre of programs and student work that was on display. We had an excellent turn out of prospective students and their families, all with lots of questions about why Mount Erin College would be a good choice for them next year. I want to thank all members of staff for their enthusiasm and involvement. The school looked terrific. Ms Lombardi has had many follow up calls from families looking to take a tour of the school. It augers well for continued high enrolments in 2018. The reputation of our school and the work that is undertaken is highly regarded in the community. Open Night is an opportunity for us all to take a look at what great work is undertaken every day.

Last week was another busy one, particularly for the junior school. We had the **SEAL Information Night** for prospective students and their families. This is an outstanding program and offers the challenge that highly able students need to really be able to reach their potential. Mount Erin College is an accredited school, one of only 34 in the State. I am very proud of the work done by the highly trained teachers who are involved in the program and would like to thank Ms Bray for her work in promoting what the program offers. Thanks also to the staff and students who attended on the night and answered questions from students and their parents. We look forward to welcoming many of these young people to Mount Erin in 2018.

Last Wednesday saw the first of our ASPIRE Nights, with the **Year 7 'Our First Term'** evening. This was a terrific opportunity to congratulate Year 7 students on the great start they have made to the year and to their transition into secondary college. Students were acknowledged for high level attendance – 97-100%. We know how important this is to student learning and success. It was very pleasing to see so many students recognised. Making significant gains in Mathematics was also acknowledged, with students who had made over 200% growth in one term receiving a certificate. Students who had participated in MESEM (student leadership), and those who have become involved in the College production 'Grease' also received special mention. The night was capped off with a wonderful video clip which captured the many moments for students since their first day. Of course the ASPIRE trophies were also given out to two students from each class who staff felt had

captured the essence of our school values. Well done to all the students. An exceptionally positive start to their year. Thanks to Mrs Townsend, Mr Zwiensen, Mr Collins and the Year 7 Home Group Teachers who were all in attendance. Thanks to Miss Andrews for the video clip that finished off the night perfectly.

Just a couple of **safety reminders** for parents and students. Despite repeated messages, very clear signage and gates that have been locked on occasion, some parents continue to drive through the staff carpark to drop students at school. This is highly dangerous and there have been many near misses. I urge all parents to use the Army Reserve car park for drop off and pick up for students. The only exception to this is the car park for disabled students. It is vitally important that the disabled car space is left available for the parents of students who require special assistance at drop off and pick up times.

I have had a number of members of the community speak to me about students not using the **school crossing**. Please speak to your children about the significant safety issues if they cross Golf Links Road at other places. Of particular concern is the number of students who use the St Augustine's crossing at the end of the day, when the crossing supervisor has left. Without the supervisor manning the crossing, cars do not stop. Please ensure your son or daughter uses the crossing for our school. We do not want to see a road accident because of careless behaviour. Thank you for your support with this.

'**Grease**' rehearsals are well underway and excitement is growing. We are all looking forward to a great production and congratulate the students, Miss Andrews and the Drama team for their commitment.

This week sees **NAPLAN testing** for all Year 7 and 9 students in the College. The testing begins on Tuesday and goes through till Thursday. It's really important all students try to do their best in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy. The data we receive from these tests gives us important information about our students, their progress in these key areas and shows how they compare with students across the country. While we understand the NAPLAN tests are a snapshot at this point in the year, the data we receive is put together with all the other information about student learning to show us how our students are developing as learners. As a school community, we value all aspects of our students education and NAPLAN is one of the important elements that help to paint the picture of how our students are learning in relation to all others in Year 7 and 9 across the country. Of course for us, of particular interest is the growth we see from Year 7 when students first come to us, to Year 9, when they have been working with their teachers for over two years. I would ask parents to encourage their children to do their best this week.

A reminder to parents that **Learning Task feedback** will be available on Compass from this Friday, 12th May. If you need assistance in accessing the Data Snapshot for your son or daughter, please feel free to contact the College.

I would like to **welcome Melissa Jones**, from Peninsula Health. Melissa will be joining us on the College Board as one of our Community Representatives. I look forward to working with Melissa and continuing to build and strengthen the partnership we have with Peninsula Health.

Karen Lee
Principal

Important Dates:

- May 10th (Wed) – Parent Connect Meeting
 - May 12th (Fri) – Learning Task Feedback available on Compass
 - May 17th (Wed) – Senior School Expo
 - May 19th (Fri) – SEAL Entrance Testing Day (9am-1pm)
 - May 23rd (Tues) – Year 8 ASPIRE Awards Night.
 - May 25th (Thurs) – Student Free Day
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Music News



Whole School Choir

The whole school choir has started up again in Term Two. Everyone is welcome to join in. We meet every Friday lunch at 12:50pm in the Music Centre. Our first song that we are learning is "Stay" by Rihanna. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Music News

Lily C. Year 11, has an album on Spotify called "Lonely Bones". This can be downloaded now, so make sure you have a listen.

Congratulations Lily.

Deaf Education Centre (DEC) News

A great, busy start to Term Two and after two four day weeks, we are back in to the swing of things with all students (and staff) going well.

Congratulations to Rath, Jasmine and Charlotte who participated in the School Cross Country on Friday 28th April. It was a good day and even though overcast, the weather was kind to all who attended.

Staff member Kathryn, is studying to complete her teaching degree and has been on **Pre-Service Teaching placement** for the first 15 days of this term. We wish Kathryn all the best with her studies and look forward to hearing all about the placement when she returns to work next week.

Over the last few weeks, students have been preparing for the upcoming **NAPLAN** testing. This is for all students in Years 7 and 9 and will be held during the week of May 8th – 12th 2017.

Sheree from **Australian Hearing** will commence her visit with the Year 9 students. They will research and engage in resources available to teenagers who are/will be looking for part-time work or perhaps some activities outside of school that are linked with the Deaf Community. We will also include a discussion about any up and coming advances in technology relating to their hearing needs.

The **ANZAC day assembly** was a very respectful time. We were joined by members of the local RSL and Village Baxter residents. Ms Lewis and Ms Farrell also gave a talk about family members who have 'served for our freedom' in the different wars that Australia has been involved in. They were very interesting and confronting stories. Thanks for taking the time to speak to us all.

Our **College Open Night** was fantastic! Thursday 27th April, we set up a display of resources, photos and information which gave a great snapshot of the Deaf Education Centre here at Mount Erin. There was a good number of families that stopped by to gather information and have a chat about what we offer and the amazing support that we provide to current and future students.

Wednesday 3rd May was the '**Year 7 – Our First Term**' evening. This night is designed to celebrate the commencement of Year 7 at Mount Erin College and incorporates the ASPIRE, Reading Plus, MathPathways, Sports, MESEM and Attendance Award presentations. Great effort from all who received an award. Keep up the excellent work.

It's starting to get cold out there, so rug up and look after yourselves. Try to avoid those nasty coughs, colds and flus.

DEC Staff – Geoff, Sarah and Kathryn



Cross Country

Mount Erin held its annual Cross Country carnival on April 28th at Robinsons Reserve. In typical cross country conditions (cloudy and windy!) over 200 students strived for their Personal Best, with a number of outstanding individual performances and close finishes. Particular mention must be made to Jenna C. who continued her unbeaten record for the past 3 years as well Mount Erin's exchange student Kai K. who dominated the U/17 event.



In regards to the House Colours competition, the overall winner for the day was Casuarina (Blue)!

A big well done to all students who were involved in what was another successful day for Mount Erin College.



National Hockey Championships

Emily B. Year 8B

During the Easter school holidays I travelled to Sydney with the U/15 Victorian State team for the National Hockey Championships. I was lucky enough to get selected as a goalkeeper which is a new position for me. I have previously played for Victoria as a field player and have been playing hockey since I was 7 years old.

We played 7 games over the 9 days and played against teams from all over Australia. The highlight for me was on Day 2 when I was named 'player of the match' against Queensland.

Against some good opposition we won 4 games, lost 2 and drew 1, finishing 6th out of 12 teams. It was an amazing experience staying, playing and training with my team.

Emily B. 8B

Congratulations Emily!

Boxing Victoria

Congratulations Tyla

Over the April school holidays, Tyla travelled to Adelaide with Boxing Victoria. Tyla won gold at the U/19 Australian Championships, this means that she is now the best female Boxer in Australia for her age and weight class.

Tyla will be travelling to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra in May for a Boxing camp where she will be trained by the National coaches.

This is a fantastic achievement and we wish her all the best.

Staff Profile

Hannah McKinlay

Art and VCAL Teacher

Describe your current role at Mount Erin College. I am the Mount Erin Kiwi representative (insert a joke about the cricket here). I teach in both the art and VCAL departments and am also a Year 12 Home Group teacher. I can most commonly be found at the MacLab amongst the computers and cameras or with a large mug of tea in my hand (a few of my favourite things in life).



What is your background in education? Mount Erin is the first and only school I've taught at. Last year (2016) was my very first year of teaching so this year I'm really enjoying coming back to work with familiar faces and develop some new creative projects.

Which things do you enjoy most about working at Mount Erin College? There are many things I enjoy about working at Mount Erin College. The friendly students, my fantastic colleagues and getting to share my love of all things arty and creative.

What has been your highlight so far this year? There are two highlights of my year so far. First of all, the enthusiasm my students brought back to the art room after their summer holidays. I've seen so many fantastic, zany artworks made by our creative students in the first term alone and I'm excited to see what the rest of the year will bring. A second highlight is my induction into the VCAL family. I'm really enjoying the diversity of the projects our students are undertaking, from radio stations to art murals and website building. It's a really fascinating area to be working in.

Tell us about your hobbies or passion outside of school.

Outside of school I am a keen runner and yoga enthusiast and any other activity that involves me getting outside and being active. Over the summer break I also tried to take up surfing, not particularly successfully but I still had a great time! I always have a few creative projects on the go. Currently I am designing and sewing clothes and working on an illustration project.

Do you have a message you would like to share with the school community? A couple of my favourite quotes on creativity to provide some food for thought...

"Every child is an artist; the problem is staying an artist when you grow up" – Pablo Picasso

"Curiosity about life in all of its aspects, I think, is still the secret of great creative people" – Leo Burnett

Admin News

CSEF Applications Close 23rd June 2017

If you have a current Health Care Card or Pension Card, you may be eligible for the Camps/Sport/Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment. Please collect an application form from the College, complete and return to us along with a copy of your card. Payment is \$225 per student for all students in all year levels. This funding will be used towards excursions, camps and sporting activities run through the College.

Student Absence From School

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE: 5971 6000 (Option 2)

If your son or daughter is going to be absent from school, please phone our absence line as early as possible on the day of the absence, stating the student name, form, reason for the absence and expected return date. A note is still required upon your son/daughter returning to school.

You will receive an automated SMS message around 9.30am if your child is marked absent. By phoning the absence line, it will save this message being sent out where possible.

Late Arrival at School

If your son or daughter is going to be late for school, please send them along with a note explaining the reason for their late arrival. Students should arrive at school around 8:20am ready for Form Assembly at 8:32am. Students are expected to be at their Form Room promptly at 8:30am.

Payment of College Fees

Family statements were sent out to all families at the end of last term. This statement outlines what is outstanding, if anything at all, for College fees. Payment of outstanding fees would be appreciated immediately. If you are unable to pay immediately, please contact our Administration Office who will gladly arrange a payment plan to suit your needs. Please note that all VET fees, VCAL fees and electives should have been paid already. Students will be unable to attend any excursions or activities if College fees have not been paid or a payment plan started.

Payment Plans for College Fees

If you are unable to pay your College fees in full, we are more than happy to discuss the option of a payment plan. By doing this, it means you can make regular payments (weekly, fortnightly or monthly) at a cost that is affordable to you. It is advisable that you sign up to a payment plan early in the year so that your payments can be paid over a

longer period of time and therefore making them more affordable to you. By signing up later in the year, your payment plan will of course be higher than it needs to be. We have various options available:

1. **Centrepay:** If you receive family allowance or pension payments from Centrelink every fortnight, you can elect to have an amount deducted from your payment. This payment will come to us automatically every fortnight. There are no fees involved for you.
2. **Debit/Credit Card:** We will deduct the agreed amount through our EFTPOS facilities here at the College. All you need to do is provide your Credit Card number, Expiry Date and complete the Authority Form and we will do the rest.

If you would like to commence a payment plan, please feel free to call the College and speak with Erin Gray in our Administration Office, who can discuss the various options with you. PH: 5971 6055.

Student Illness

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell. The College provides a First Aid attendant and has facilities to attend minor illness and injuries only. We are unable to provide a "Sick Bay" for unwell students who should be at home.

If a student is feeling unwell at school, they obtain a pass from their classroom teacher and report to the First Aid Office. Students are not to call home themselves. The First Aid attendant will telephone home to have the student collected and signed out of school. Parents are requested NOT to collect students from the College without ensuring they are first signed out through either First Aid or General Office. We are not authorised to provide Panadol or similar medications to students. If there is an existing ailment, students are encouraged to bring their own medication from home. Parents are encouraged to contact our First Aid attendant if they wish her to administer prescribed medications.

If a student is injured at school, first aid will be administered. If the injury requires further attention, parents will be contacted and/or an ambulance will be called if deemed necessary by the attending first aid staff. Parents/Guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs. The Department of Education & Training and Mount Erin College do not hold accident insurance for school students. JUA Underwriting Pty. Ltd. and Willis Australia Ltd. provides accident insurance policies for students.

SCHOOL BASED NOTEBOOK PROGRAM

For those families on the School Based
Notebook Program (not the Edunet Program)

**PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE THE NEXT PAYMENT
READY - DUE ON 10TH MAY**

Homework Club

Homework club continues to be a success in Term 2. Forms are available at the general office for Homework Club if you would like your son/daughter to be involved. Homework Club runs between 3-4pm on Monday and Thursday in the Resource Centre and it is a great opportunity to complete homework and to seek help from teachers. Light refreshments are provided each afternoon. Students must have a completed form to attend.

If you have any further questions please contact either Jackie Melling or Jodie van Gameren.

Food Technology Recipes

This is an easy one to make at home. You do not need to buy the whole taco kit just the shells and make your own. This was made in the Year 8 Food Tech class.

MEAT SAUCE

Ingredients

Piece capsicum
¼ onion finely chopped
50 ml beef stock
½ clove garlic
¼ tsp chilli sauce
Pinch oregano
80 gm mince steak
2 tsp tomato paste
Salt and pepper
3 tsp oil



Method

1. Fry onion, garlic and capsicum for 2 minutes in oil.
2. Add beef, cook until brown.
3. Add tomato paste, beef stock, salt, pepper, oregano and chilli sauce.
4. Simmer gently 10 minutes. Check consistency.

Tomato Sauce

1/4 cup taco sauce

Tacos

1 lettuce leaf shredded
50 gm grated cheese
2 taco shells

1. Heat taco shells on tray in oven for 10 mins 180C.
2. Fill shells with meat filling, taco sauce, lettuce and top with grated cheese.

Mathematical Brainteaser

Poor old Jerry is in the hospital. The doctor has given him a bottle of pills, and told him to take one every 15 minutes. If there are eight pills in the bottle, how long until the bottle is empty?

Solution: Page 8.

Congratulations Mr McCafferty

Robert has worked extensively in film, particularly in the music industry. He filmed the band 'The Drones' and his footage will be featured in a documentary "We Don't Need A Map" which will be screening on SBS in September and in the International Film Festivals this year. The Director of the documentary is Warwick Thornton, who won an award at the Cannes Film Festival for his previous film 'Samson and Delilah'. Congratulations Robert. This is great recognition of your outstanding work in film.



ANZAC DAY

RSL Park Visit



On Tuesday the 25th of April (ANZAC Day) some MESEM students went to RSL Park in Frankston South. This group included some MESEM regulars: Skye B, Sophie S, Axle W, Harry C, Joshua V and Kaitlyn F. While we were there we sat and watched their ANZAC Day service. This included singing songs, listening to the last post and finally saying the oath.



After the ceremony we helped hand out tea, coffee, scones and biscuits. Just before we left we went and said hello to our favourite resident, who we sometimes play cards with, Alan.

Kaitlyn F – Year 7

MUNA

'Model United Nations Assembly'

On the 5th – 7th of May, we (Thomas B. and Zac O.) attended the MUNA 'Model United Nations Assembly' camp at Phillip Island. We were sponsored by The Rotary Club of Frankston.



The purpose of MUNA was to understand the diverse and conflicting ideologies of countries throughout the world. We were given the opportunity to choose a country we would like to represent. During the camp we discussed, debated and passed resolutions based on current world issues.

We decided to represent Indonesia as this is an integral part of the college, with students learning Indonesian as a second language. Six resolutions were put forward to all nations, and after lengthy discussions and debates, all resolutions were passed successfully.

This invaluable experience gave Zac and myself a greater insight into how the United Nation Assembly works and gave us an appreciation of the tireless effort put into

assuring all nations have an opportunity to live equally and without prejudice.



Thank you to Ms Linz for organising the opportunity and to Ari for supplying us with Indonesian clothes so we could look the part when representing Indonesia.
Tom B.

Junior School News

Year 7 – Our First Term Night

On Wednesday 3rd May, it was the Year 7 'OUR FIRST TERM' evening. We had nearly 400 people on the night with some very excited students and parents.



This year we made a change to the format of the night which broadened the range of certificates for all students including:

- Certificate of Appreciation (each student received this for Term 1)
- Outstanding Attendance Certificate,
- >100% and >200% Maths Pathways Growth Certificate,
- MESEM Participation,
- GREASE Participation Award
- INTERSCHOOL SPORTS Awards.
- ASPIRE Awards

Thank you to all those who supported the evening and a big CONGRATULATIONS to all Year 7 students on a very successful First Term.

Bahasa Indonesia di Mount Erin (Indonesian at Mount Erin)

Selamat Datang! Welcome!

Prize Draw

Answer the following question in a full Indonesian sentence:
Anda suka apa?

Place your answer together with your name in the competition box in A11.
Winner drawn 15/05 and notified by email. One entry per student.

Did you know?

'Orangutan' comes from the Indonesian words 'orang' meaning 'people' and 'hutan' meaning forest. Literally, forest people!

Berita (News)

In week 3 of Term 2 our Year 10's had the opportunity to participate in the Melbourne Zoo's Southeast Asia Conservation Programme. Pictures below!



Miss Olsen Plays for St. Kilda Football Club

On the 23rd of April I was privileged enough to play football for the St Kilda Women's Team at Etihad Stadium against the ADF (Australian Defence Force), before the St Kilda Vs Geelong Men's Game. The team was made up of the best women's footballers in the Southern Metropolitan Area who didn't get picked up in last year's draft.



We started our training at the Linen House Centre in November with a group of 60 girls. Over the 6 month period the group was reduced, until a final team of 23 was selected for the big match.



During the 6 months of training I had to squeeze in two skill sessions, two conditioning sessions and two gym sessions per week as well as my own Cranbourne Women's team training. It was a tough and physically draining 6 months but it was all worth it in the end when I stepped out onto the Etihad ground.

The day of the game was almost overwhelming for myself and my team mates as we were treated like real AFL players. Our uniforms were all laid out for us in our lockers, we had access to ice baths, physios and we were even given a whole heap of free gear. The little things excited me as I walked out onto the ground and we stood as a team listening to the last post and thinking about the ANZACS.



The Australian Defence Force team that we were playing hadn't been beaten by a Victorian Women's team for the past 5 years so we were expecting a tight and very rough game and that is exactly what we got. I was happy with my performance on the day, getting my fair share of the ball in the backline.

A few knee injuries, an ankle injury and a broken nose to finish off the game but we pulled through with the win and took home the cup.

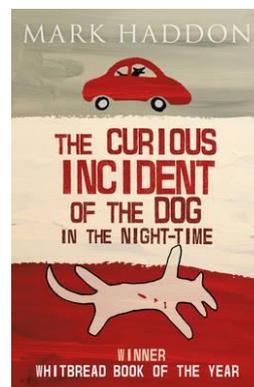
It was the best sporting experience I have ever had and something that I will cherish forever.

What a day!

Brain teaser Solution

Jerry will take one pill right away, leaving seven in the bottle. Then he will take one every 15 minutes, meaning he will take the final pill and empty the bottle after one hour and 45 minutes.

MEC Book Club



The book we are discussing in May is 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' by: Mark Haddon. We will be meeting in the Resource Centre at 12.50pm on Wednesday 31st May. All students, teachers and parents welcome. You can borrow a copy of this book from the Resource Centre.

How Can Mount Erin Parents Support Their Student With Homework?

The primary purpose of homework is to reinforce the information and skills your student learns at school. It is helpful for your student when parents can help them develop strategies to complete homework and assignments in stress-free and learning-friendly ways. It is important that parents and students find a plan that works for their family and stick with it.

Here are some tips to use when developing homework strategies with your student:

Use checklists – Help your student get into the habit of using checklists for keeping track of their homework or assessment tasks. This can be done in the college diary and you can check tasks on Compass. Once tasks have been completed, crossing off items will help students feel a sense of accomplishment. Some students prefer using a calendar or a mobile device to keep track of due dates and help prioritise assignments. Once a set task is submitted in Compass its status will change to a green tick if on time.

Prioritise homework and assessment tasks – Before beginning a homework session, encourage your student to number the tasks in order in which they are to be completed. Some students prefer to start with one that's not too long or difficult. Others prefer saving the easy ones for last and starting on the longest or hardest tasks. Be sure to set realistic goals and stop along the way to check progress.

Set a designated study space – Students often find it helpful to study in the same place every night where supplies and materials are close at hand. This space does not have to be a bedroom, but it should be a quiet, well-lit place with few distractions. Make sure that the TV is turned off and that if music is requested, it does not create a distraction.

Set a designated study time – Students should know that a certain time every day is reserved for studying and doing homework. The best time is usually not right after school as most students benefit from time to unwind first. Parents should include their student in making this decision. Even if your student does not have homework, the reserved time should be used to review the day's lessons, read for pleasure or work on an upcoming school project. Students can also complete Reading Plus or Maths Pathways work at home to progress further.

Show interest in your student's assignments – Ask about the subject and work to be accomplished. Try to relate homework to your student's everyday life. For instance, fractions and measurements can be reviewed as the student helps cook dinner or students can be asked to spell words in a game of Hangman!

Be a role model – take the opportunity to read a book or newspaper while your student studies. Reading together helps encourage a life-long love of learning for your student. Perhaps you could write a list or a letter to a friend while your student writes an essay or you could share some research together and discuss ideas you have both learnt. Try out the idea of no mobile or electronic devices for half an hour in your house to focus on communication or quiet working time. You may be surprised about how productive and positive this can be!

Check over homework tasks or projects – take time to review your student's homework with them, but make sure you are not doing it for them. Being familiar with your student's work will help you identify strengths and weaknesses and create a supportive relationship with your student.

Check and use the teacher feedback comments on Learning Tasks in Compass – Your student is provided with written feedback from each teacher for three or more learning tasks in every subject they study each Semester. These feedback comments are located in Compass in each learning task that has the word FEEDBACK at the front of the title. This means that you and your student can read the advice the teacher has given based on the work submitted or an activity participated in. It will outline things the student did well and things the student should focus on improving in the next task or next time. You can check the Learning Tasks page regularly for updated information and refer to the whole school assessment schedule sent home in Term 1. Extra copies can be found at the front office. Our next round of feedback will be uploaded by Monday 15th May, so jump on Compass to view and discuss it.

Meet with your student's teachers – Be sure you understand the goals that the teachers have set for your student. You should consider yourself and your student's teachers as partners. Together, you and the teacher can have the strongest positive influence on your student and their study habits. Attending Parent/Student/Teacher interviews can be an excellent way to build this partnership or using Compass to communicate via email and keep up to date with your student's progress in their Learning Tasks and Academic Reports area.

Take your student's struggles seriously – if you notice that your student is struggling with assignments in particular subjects be sure that you encourage your student to seek assistance and feedback from their teacher. You can also discuss this with the teacher. Early help is much better than falling behind or becoming very stressed about studying.

Give praise – Encourage and celebrate with your student for successfully completing homework. Most students want their parents to know they are completing homework and assignments and be proud of their achievements. Nothing builds self-esteem more like praise from parents.

Use Homework Club – To have a friendly and supportive place to study, your student might consider Homework Club. This is also for situations where your student might fall behind or is absent from school. Encourage and allow them to attend Homework Club to receive support to catch up. Teachers are there to supervise this club on a Monday and Thursday from 3pm-4pm in the Resource Centre and can give that extra support your student may need. Permission forms are available from the college.

For more information please visit the following website that gives excellent advice and information for parents about how to engage yourself in your student's learning and tools to help them do well at school and develop aspirations for the future, as well as, information on wellbeing and attendance that all aim to support you and your student.

<https://www.education.gov.au/what-can-i-do-help-my-child-do-well-school>

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Teaching and Learning policies surrounding homework and studies in general that we aspire to at the college.

Jackie Lewis
Teaching and Learning Leader

GTAC - Year 9 Science

On Wednesday the 19th of April, our Year 9 Forensic science class attended an excursion to GTAC, to learn the basics of the Science of DNA and how it is used in Forensics today.



By the end of the day all students had gained some knowledge on the subject and we highly recommend this program for other schools in the area.

Meah P. 9A

The morning began with a lengthy trip to the University High School, bus thrumming with the student's excitement. We met our hosts for the day, Fran and Guy whom explained the basics of DNA through a couple of interactive activities from 9:30am until 11:00am when we left the classroom to have morning tea.

At 11:20am when we re-entered the class we were greeted with a surprise... real Scientists! They became our mentors for the day as we worked our way through the work booklets full of evidence from a pending case that needed solving. Students were given an incident and would have to sort through the evidence given, ask the appropriate questions and with the help of our amazing mentors conduct experiments in which we studied all the suspects DNA to eventually discover who the culprit was.



Past Mount Erin College SEAL Student Rod Evans

Rod was a Mount Erin SEAL student who graduated Dux of the School in 2014. He is now in his 3rd year of Law with a Distinction average. Recently Rod was inducted to the Golden Key Society. In the SEAL program they gain greater bonds and support each other long after SEAL's end and despite heading in different directions after high school, all the SEAL's keep in touch with each other with regular catch ups.

Keep up the great work!





MOUNT ERIN COLLEGE

Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program- (SEAL) ENTRANCE TESTING DAY

A formal testing day involving two adaptive Department of Education On-Demand tests, and a third online test set by the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

Students are also asked to submit a short creative-writing piece, based on a prompt provided on the day.

Friday 19th May, 2017
9.00am – 1.00pm

Where: Mount Erin College, Robinsons Road, Frankston South 3199

To register:

- Contact Barb Kershaw, Mount Erin College General Office on 5971 6000 (school hours 8-4pm) OR
- Email SEAL Coordinator Courtney Bray:
bray.courtney.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

First Round applications for the 2018 program must be completed and returned by Friday 19th May, 2017

Mount Erin College is the only Accredited SEAL education provider in the Frankston area – our Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program is specifically designed to advance the academic, creative, and leadership potential of highly able students.

Once registered, you will receive more detailed information about the entrance testing. This will include the types of tests, details about the running of the day, as well as the next steps for entry to the program.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Secondary School Attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12.

Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance – going to school more often can lead to better outcomes. Even at Year 9, when attendance rates for all students are lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. Every day counts.

Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away

on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences are bad for academic performance, unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your year level coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your child to school every day.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

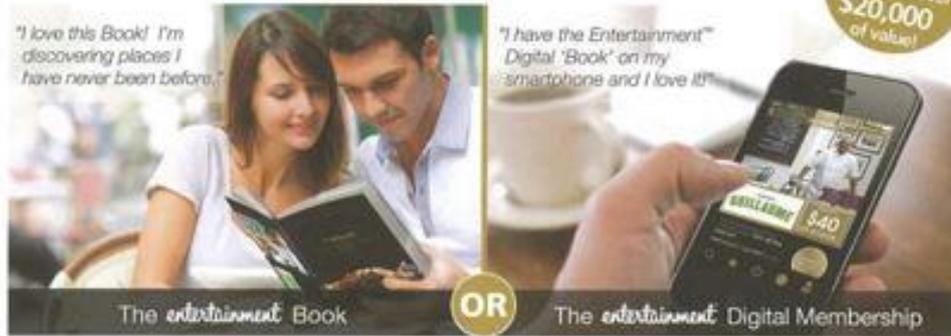


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Mount Erin College

Contact: Rosemary Lumley Phone: 0359716011 Email: lumley.rosemary.i@edumail.vic.gov.au

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PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS

Parents with a Mental Illness Parenting Program

A free Parenting Program for Parents with a Mental Illness that incorporates learning how to manage their mental illness together with a parenting skills information sessions.

DATES : Wednesday 17th May for six weeks until Wednesday 21st June

TIME: 1pm to 3pm

WHERE: Frankston North Community Centre, 26 Mahogany Ave, Frankston North

BOOKINGS: Suzanne on 0499 078 770 Suzanne.Heppell@anglicarevic.org.au
Or Sharon on 0458 750 754 Sharon.Hawley@anglicarevic.org.au



1300 889 335 | anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER TOMORROWS

* * * * *





FREE School Holiday Program

For children between 8-12 years whose parent/s experience mental illness

It is a **three** day support group that involves:

- Fun activities and social connections
- Information about mental health
- Helps develop coping strategies
- Helps the children to develop a personal safety plan
- It supports the children to meet and develop friendships

When: Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th July

10:00am to 3:00pm

Where: Ebdale Community Hub & Learning Centre,

20 Ebdale St, Frankston

For Referral forms: suzanne.heppell@anglicarevic.org.au

or call Suzanne on 0499 078 770

Satellite CHAMPS for Frankston Mornington Peninsula








* * * * *

Talking to Children

- ❖ Parents may experience difficulty discussing their mental illness with their children. They might think that if they talk openly about their illness and how it makes them feel, their children will be confused or won't understand.
- ❖ However, children worry less about something if they understand it and know they are not alone in their experiences.
- ❖ Answering questions and providing honest, age appropriate explanations to children helps to stop them from filling in gaps with wrong information. Accurate information can reassure them that they are not at fault as they may also feel that they are somehow to blame for their parents' condition.
- ❖ Providing opportunities for children to talk with their parent or other trusted adults about mental health issues might help reduce their worries.
- ❖ If you need some encouragement and some guidelines for talking to your children, refer to other resources overleaf.

Protecting Your Privacy

Our staff are committed to respecting your confidentiality and preserving your privacy. We will keep your personal information secure and protected from unauthorised access or improper use. A copy of



Key Resources

Parent Line:	13 22 89
Kids Help Line:	1800 55 1800
CHILD First:	1300 721 383
AngliCare Victoria	9781 6700
Good Shepherd	59794443
Peninsula Health Mental Health Services	9784 6999
FMC Family Mediation Centre	1800 639 523
Mornington Peninsula Shire Youth Services	5950 1666
Frankston City Council Youth Services	9768 1366
Alfred Health - Young Carers'	1800 052 222

Websites

Family Specific

<http://www.mifellowship.org/> (Families and Carers)

<http://www.copmi.net.au/> (Tips for families)

Young People 12-18

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au>

<http://headspace.org.au/>

<http://www.carersvictoria.org.au/how-we-help/young-carers>

Children 5-12

<http://www.copmi.net.au/>

CHAMPS

Supporting children and families where a parent has a mental illness



PH: 9781 6751 Mob: 0499 078 770

E: suzanne.heppell@angliCarevic.org.au

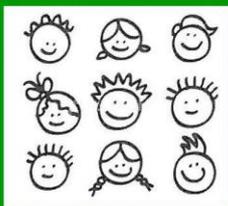
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https://www.facebook.com/Satellite-Foundation-194154447296281/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

W: www.satellitefoundation.org.au

Anyone can be affected by

In fact....

- ❖ 20% of adults are affected by some form of mental health illness every year.
- ❖ Anxiety disorder and depression are the most common mental health illnesses



- ❖ Most people with a mental illness recover when they receive ongoing treatment and support.



CHAMPS Referrals

- ❖ A support group for children aged between 8 – 12 years, whose parent/s experience mental illness.
- ❖ CHAMPS is a 3 day School Holiday Program that incorporates fun activities, information about mental health issues, helps develop coping strategies, helps children to develop a personal safety plan.
- ❖ An information session will run for parents.
- ❖ CHAMPS School Holiday Program will run in either Frankston, Mornington, Hastings or Rosebud from 10:00am – 3.00pm
- ❖ Transport can be arranged for the participants (prior arrangement)
- ❖ There is NO COST to participate in the program
- ❖ For further information please contact Suzanne on 9781 6751 or 0499 078 770

What can we do?

Try talking about mental illnesses openly with people that you meet – it is surprising how many people are affected by mental illness but have been too afraid of rejection to discuss it openly

Being a Parent who has a Mental Illness

- ❖ Parenting is hard work
- ❖ All parents struggle at times. Most families need help from time to time from friends and relatives or professionals.
- ❖ It's OK to ask for help
- ❖ Parents who have a mental illness may be afraid that by asking for help, they will be judged as a 'bad parent'. Yet, many people with mental illness successfully raise families.
- ❖ As a parent, it is important to look after yourself.
- ❖ This may mean arranging regular breaks from your role as a parent, such as spending time with your friends or family.
- ❖ Respite care can be a useful option to explore as part of a self-care plan.
- ❖ Children and parents benefits from space apart as well as time together. This assists children to discover and explore the world around them safely and independently.

SATELLITE CHAMPS REFERRAL FORM

Please email the referral to: Suzanne.Heppell@anglicarevic.org.au

To discuss further contact Suzanne on : 9781 6751 / 0499 078 770

REFERRER DETAILS

Date of Referral:		Name: (Referrer)	
Agency / Self:		Contact Details:	

CHILD'S INFORMATION

Child's Name:		DOB:	
		Age:	
Language spoken	English first language YES NO	Gender:	Male / Female
	Do you require an interpreter YES NO	ATSI:	YES NO
Housing Type:	Private: Public <input type="checkbox"/> Rental: <input type="checkbox"/> Rental: <input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Mental Health Care Plan:	YES NO
Address:		Postcode:	
Mother/ Parent 1		Phone	^(P) _(M)
Father/ Parent 2		Phone	^(P) _(M)
Guardian Name:		Phone	^(P) _(M)
Main Source of Income			

GP Details:	Name:		
	Practice:		GP Phone:

School	Name:	Grade:	
	Town:	Teacher:	
	Phone:	Contact Person:	

Are there any other services currently supporting the child and / or family? If so, please list:

Name	Contact Number

FAMILY MEMERS:

Mother/Parent 1		Age:	Father/ Parent 2		Age:
MH Diagnosis <small>(state if unknown)</small>			MH Diagnosis <small>(state if unknown)</small>		
Sibling 1:		Age:	Sibling 2:		Age:
Sibling 3:		Age:	Sibling 4:		Age:

OTHER FAMILY SUPPORTS – Please provide name/s of:

Grandparents:		Neighbour:	
Aunt:		Family Friends:	
Uncle:		Other:	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What is your perception of the severity of impact of mental illness on family functioning?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

No impact

Severely disruptive

What is your perception of the child's understanding of mental illness?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

No impact

Severely disruptive

Reason for referral? _____

Brief history of child / family (e.g. relationship between parents / child, recent episodes etc.): _____

Does the child have particular worries with regards to the parent's mental health? _____

Does the child present with any behavioural problems? _____

Does the child have any medical issues? _____

Have you discussed the concurrent Parents Group with the parent/s? YES NO

What is the parent's current mental health and functioning? _____

Any other family issues that are relevant (e.g.: Intellectual disability, Social Isolation, Family Violence, AOD, Cultural Issues) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN

This referral has been explained to me. Signature: _____ Date: _____