



# Mount Erin College

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## Newsletter

**Issue 1: Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> 2017**

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### Principal's Report

**Welcome** back to the College for 2017. What a positive start to the year it has been. Staff returned on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January and it was terrific to welcome them back after the break. The day was focused on student learning; our clear and common purpose: to improve the opportunities and outcomes for every student.

I welcome the **new staff** members to the College: Mrs Farrell (Maths), Mr Kerr (Science), Ms Smith (English), Mr Wenger (Indonesian), Ms Melling (English/Sociology), Ms Lockhart (Humanities), Mr Maharaj (Maths), Ms Tendora (Science), Mr Flint (Maths), Ms Rudski (AFL Trainee –Sport), Ms Long (Integration), Ms Koch (Integration), Ms King (Careers). They are keen and excited to be part of such a great team of teachers. We are fortunate to have attracted so many excellent, skilled professionals to join our College.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> was a really exciting day for our **new Year 7 students**, who arrived bright and early with parents and family members. It was wonderful to see so many parents were able to come with their son or daughter to support them for their first day at secondary school. Can I take the opportunity to thank them for this support. It is an essential part of making the transition from primary school a positive experience. It's always a big step, with a real mix of nerves and excitement (for students and parents). The students were welcomed by staff with fresh muffins, fruit and drinks and began the next phase of their educational journey here at Mount Erin College. By the many smiling faces at the end of the day, it was a terrific start.

**Classes** have begun and it is very pleasing to see how quickly students have settled into focused work with their teachers. The benefit of students having completed Early Commencement at the end of 2016, is very clear. I congratulate students on the manner in which they have begun the year. The feedback from staff has been very positive. Looking around the school, the attention to uniform is excellent and the students present a very confident and proud image of their school to the wider community.

The involvement of **parents and community members** in the life of the school is so important. We value the input

from parents and seek your feedback about what is working well and how we can do things better. Communication is vital to the success of any school and at Mount Erin we are always looking at ways to improve the links with our families. I encourage parents to come along to the **Parents Connect** meetings, to find out more about the College and to establish a network with other parents new to the school. Details of these meetings will be sent out via Compass. I also encourage parents who might be interested in getting involved in the school via the College Board to contact me. Elections for parent members are held at the end of February. Details about the College Board are included in this Newsletter.

I would like to highlight some **great successes from 2016**. Our VCE results for 2016 were excellent. This reflects the dedication and commitment of the teachers at Mount Erin to working with students to reach their potential. I congratulate staff on their outstanding efforts and students on their achievements. 93% of our Year 12 VCE students successfully completed their VCE. 86% of students who applied for a university course received a first round offer, which again is a terrific outcome for our students. They have been offered places in a wide range of courses: Science, Health Science, Biomedical, Science – Advanced Global Challenges (Honours), Science – Wildlife and Conservation (Honours), Arts, Nursing, Midwifery, Education (Birth to 6 years, Primary and Secondary), Speech Pathology, Nanotechnology, Engineering, Sports Management, Business, Graphic Design, Urban and Regional Planning, Psychology, Information Technology and many more. Our VCAL results were also outstanding, with all but three of our graduating class in employment, apprenticeships or further training at TAFE. An apprenticeship at Holden, another in Metal Fabrication; entry into Nursing and Sport and Recreation reflect the diverse interests of our students. These are very positive outcomes. It's a very exciting time for all these young people embarking on the next stage of their lives and career pathways and we wish them the very best.

Significant **work has been completed** over the holiday break with a revamp of our administration area, including a new attendance and Sick Bay area. Several new offices have been added and the area painted. It looks very

welcoming. The Bio-box (technical control room) in the Auditorium has been extended and refitted to improve storage and accessibility. All told, a very busy time during the break, in preparation for a positive start to 2017.

We are excited that this is a production year and auditions for **"GREASE"** are underway. Staff have been thrilled with the huge and enthusiastic response and have been conducting auditions until late on Friday afternoon. They are very impressed with the number of highly talented students who are keen to be part of the production this year. Our music students will also have the opportunity to be involved. Once the cast is chosen, rehearsals will begin. We are all eager to see it take shape – **GREASE is the word!**

Mr Burgess has worked tirelessly to communicate with families to ensure all students eligible to use the **School Bus Program**, have been issued with passes. He has also contacted all families to ensure the students catching the Pearcedale Charter bus have also been issued with passes.

#### **Student Concession and Public Transport Victoria**

Some students will be catching the public buses to the College. These buses require students to use a MYKI Card.

#### **Proof of Concession Entitlement**

All students aged 17 years and over, or those requiring a half yearly or yearly Student Pass (regardless of age) need to obtain a 2017 Victoria Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card as proof of their concession entitlement. *It is important to note that school issued identification cards are **not** accepted as entitlement to concession travel on public transport.*

#### **2017 Victorian Student Pass**

The Victorian Student Pass provides travel for students on all metropolitan trains, trams and buses, all regional bus services and all V/ Line train and coach services. The Victorian Student Pass is issued on a myki.

#### **How to apply for a 2017 VPT Student Concession Card and / or a Student Pass:**

These can be obtained from:

- Metropolitan premium stations
- PTV Call Centre by calling 1800 800 007
- V/ Line staffed stations and ticket agents
- Online at [ptv.vic.gov.au](http://ptv.vic.gov.au)

#### **Drop Off and Pick Up Zones / Car Parking**

**NO cars are allowed to enter the Golf Links Road entry and exit.** This is for pedestrian and bus traffic **ONLY**.

**The Staff Car Park on Robinsons Road is for staff ONLY.** The only exception to this will be for disabled members of our community. It is extremely important that parents observe the clear 'No Student Drop Off' signs. This is a matter of student safety and must be observed during school drop off and pick up times.

**ALL parent vehicles are to enter via the F Block entrance gate, near the Army Reserve** where there will be both

parking and a flow through area to pick up and drop off students. Exit from this area will be via the gate next to the Neville Rohan Centre. I urge parents to take care when driving through these areas of the College. All cars should be travelling at walking pace to ensure student safety.

It is essential that all students, staff and visitors to the College comply with the instructions about out of bounds areas, parking, etc. to ensure the safety of our community. I am very concerned at the number of parents who continue to use the staff car park to drop off or pick up their children, or in some cases use it to by-pass heavy traffic on Robinsons Road! This is extremely dangerous. **The staff car park is not for student drop off or pick up** and this is clearly sign-posted.

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> our Year 7 students will be departing for camp at Phillip Island. This will mean that there will be 4 buses in the F Block car park in the morning and will create some congestion with 200 students, the staff and all their bags as they depart. Please take this into consideration on both Wednesday morning and on Friday afternoon when they return. Please follow all directions of staff on duty.

Students need to be very **careful when walking home** and I remind them that they **must** use the school crossing on Golf Links Road. There have been a number of reports of students crossing the road at the roundabout, which is extremely dangerous. Parents, can you please reinforce this message with your son or daughter.

I again, take the opportunity to welcome all our new students and their families. You are joining a great school where our focus is on student learning. The vision for the College is to continue to develop a dynamic and stimulating learning environment that engages and provides challenge for every student. We aim to improve learning opportunities and outcomes, which means we want every young person at Mount Erin College to build their confidence, their resilience and to experience success. I am looking forward to a terrific year and invite you to be actively part of the educational journey at the College.

Karen Lee  
Principal

## Deaf Education Centre (DEC) News

Happy New Year 2017, and hello to another school year.

We're delighted to be able to share that all of our three year 12s from last year are doing well. One has gained her first choice at Swinburne University and the other two have both begun apprenticeships. We wish them every success.

We would like to particularly welcome our new students into Year 7. We are very proud of how they have settled in at Mount Erin, with different timetables and routines, and once again being the youngest. We are very excited and feel privileged to be able to work with them over the next chapter of their schooling.

The highlight of this week must be the Year 7 camp which runs from Wednesday until Friday. We can't wait for the stories that will come back and hearing about the friendships that have been strengthened. To the students: enjoy every moment at Phillip Island, relax and have fun with your fellow classmates and teachers.

Sherree from Australian Hearing will visit us for the first time in 2017 on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. The visits are an invaluable bridge between education and audiology allowing prompt resolution of any issues and discussion of any difficulties. We also have an opportunity to be introduced to new technology that supports their learning.

There will be lots of exciting things happening that we and our students will be part of this year – Including our annual trip to Melbourne for the Combined Secondary College Deaf Sports Day and another DEC-specific excursion that will be of great educational value to the students relating to the deaf community in which they are a part. We will update you about other activities closer to the time.

As we are heading into week 3 keep up the great work, study hard and we wish you all the best for this term.

DEC Staff - Geoff, Sarah and Kathryn



Water

Lunch

Drink



Bag

Uniform

## Food Technology Mini Gardens

In Terms 3 and 4 2016 several VCAL students were looking for an extended project that was "hands on", provided a service or assistance to the college or wider community, and was complex enough to meet the outcomes required in their Intermediate VCAL. With support from their advisors and liaison with the College Maintenance and Food Technology Staff, it was decided that the students would design, research plant suitability, build the garden beds, cost the project, liaise with providers and plant a vegetable and herb garden.

The garden beds were completed and planted before the end of school 2016. The plants include a lemon tree, carrots, tomatoes, mixed lettuces, rosemary, parsley, mint and thyme.

The first produce was used by Year 12 Food Technology students in week one of 2017. They were very excited to use tomatoes, parsley and mint in their first production. Tomatoes and herbs have been used in further technology classes, with the carrots just about ready to be harvested.



## **Student Accident Insurance, Ambulance Cover Arrangements and Private Property Brought to School**

Schools are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance or ambulance cover for students. Parents and guardians of students, who do not have student accident insurance/ambulance cover, are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including the cost of ambulance attendance or transport as well as any other transport costs.

Private property brought to school by students, staff or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. As the Department does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property, students and staff should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

It is highly advisable that parents/guardians take out accident insurance for their children to cover such possibilities. Insurance policies can be purchased from commercial insurers.

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### **\*Parent Connect Meeting 28th February 2017\***

Parent Connect was started to help encourage, maintain and support the important connection between students, the school and families. Parent Connect is not a fundraising group or a committee, but a friendly group of parents who are interested in learning more about life at secondary school, education in general and the opportunities and programs Mount Erin College offers to students. Interested parents and community members are warmly invited to join.

Discussion points for our first meeting will include: Compass logistics, the importance of attendance, Reading Plus, Maths Pathways, Sport at Mount Erin College, GREASE, MESEM and lunchtime activities for students. Places are limited so please email Jenny Pudney at pudney.jenny.j@edumail.vic.gov.au to register your interest.

A light supper will be provided.

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## **The Importance Of Full Time Attendance**

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.

School participation helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values which set them up for further learning and participation in their community. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school. It is important that children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

There is no safe number of days for missing school. **Every Day Counts.**

Each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Limited school participation is associated with a greater chance of dropping out of school, disruptive and delinquent behaviour and may lead to a cycle of rebellion against authority.

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 – 17 years unless an exemption from attendance has been granted. If for any reason your child must miss school, there are steps you can take to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your home group 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 school and ensure your child completes the plan.

Students are expected to attend the school in which they are enrolled, during normal school hours every day of each term, unless:

- there is an approved exemption from school attendance for the student

**Students at Mount Erin College are required to maintain a 90% attendance rate. If a student is absent for more than 2 days, they are required to supply a medical certificate to explain their absence.**

**Please ring the absence line on 5971 6098 or SMS 0428 937 348 leaving a detailed message explaining the absence from school. A note is required from parents/guardians when the student returns to school.**

## School Photos 2017

The school photos are taking place on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. Students have been sent home with a hard copy of order forms and details. Students must be in full school uniform, with hair tied back, no facial piercings or excessive make-up. Photo orders need to be done online directly with Arthur Reed Photos at [www.arphotos.com.au](http://www.arphotos.com.au). This website gives you further details on the types of packages available and details of how to order.

## Revised Acceptable Use Policy For Mobile Devices

As a result of students now owning laptop computers and being able to use these in class, there is now no reason for students to take their phones, iPods, smart watches, etc. to class. These devices have caused significant distraction for students and impedes their learning. We will not be

banning these items from school but will require that they remain locked away in students' lockers during class time.

Please see the revised policy included in this newsletter.

## Homework Club

Homework club will be running again in 2017. If your child needs extra help and time to complete homework, Homework Club is a great way to get it done. Homework club will run from 3-4pm every Monday and Thursday night starting on Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> in the Resource Centre.

If you wish for your child to attend, please collect and sign a permission form, for Term 1, at the general office. These forms are to be returned to the office or myself at homework club. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jackie Melling

## Important Dates:

Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> (Thur) – School Photos

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> (Tues) – Parent Connect

## Canteen Information

Students are reminded that lunch orders from the canteen need to be placed by/at recess, and will be ready for pick up at lunch time.

## Reminder to Year 7 Parents

Frankston City Council nurses will be coming to the College on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to provide vaccinations to all the Year 7 students. If you have not yet returned the **Vaccination Consent Card**, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new card, more are available at the Front Office. Please call Brooke Majera on 5971 6000 for any further questions.

## Staff Profile

**Jenny Pudney**

Leading Teacher Community Relations

Describe your current role at Mount Erin College. My role is to develop and foster positive relationships within our community, liaise and support Parent Connect, promote student voice within our school and organise program development within our local community.



## Year 7 Food Technology

### Salad Faces



**What is your background in education?** I have been teaching for over ten years in both adult education and in the secondary sector.

**Which things do you enjoy most about working at Mount Erin College?** I enjoy working with the students to help them reach their potential and I also enjoy working with the fantastic staff at Mount Erin College.

**What has been your highlight so far this year?** The highlight for me this year has been teaching the Year 12 Australian History students, meeting the parents of the Year 7 students, and organising Parent Connect which is the parent volunteer group at Mount Erin College.

**Tell us about your hobbies or passion outside of school.**

I volunteer for St John Ambulance and I enjoy reading, going to the movies and walking my dog.

**Do you have a message you would like to share with the school community?** This year I will be working to encourage parents to engage in our school community. The Australian Government Department of Education and Training states 'when schools and families work together, children do better and stay in school longer.'

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## Food Technology Recipes

### Apple Pancakes

(Shared between 2)

#### Ingredients

- 3/4 cups S.R.Flour
- 1 ½ tab castor sugar
- 1 egg – beaten
- ¾ cups milk
- ¼ Cup chopped pie apples
- 1 tab butter



#### Method

1. Sift flour and add sugar. Make a well in the centre of the mixture.
2. Add milk to egg.
3. Gradually pour into the well and using a wooden spoon gradually beat in flour. Add chopped apples
4. Heat frying pan and lightly grease with butter.
5. Place spoonful's of mixture into hot pan. When bubbles appear on the surface of the scones turn over using spatula.
6. Cook on the other side until they are golden brown.
7. Lift onto cake cooler.
8. Serve with butter.

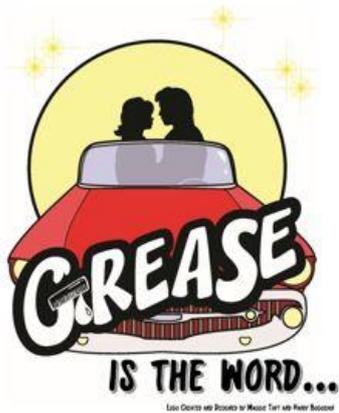


### Cheer Leading World Championships

A great sporting achievement for Jemma who is in our Year 10 AEP team. Jemma and her team will be competing in the World Championships in Cheer Leading in May this year. They will be competing for 10 days from the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. We wish Jemma and her team the best of luck.

### Southern Cross Basketball Challenge

Congratulations to Lachlan, Year 8, who played in the Southern Cross Challenge, a basketball tournament in January with SA, WA, ACT and Vic Country. He was part of the successful winning team of Metro Navy.



## at Mount Erin College in 2017

We are so excited to announce that Mount Erin will be staging a whole college production of the much loved musical 'Grease'.

**Synopsis:** *Rydell High's spirited class of '59-gum-chewing, hub-cap-stealing, hotrod-loving boys with D.A.s and leatherjackets and their wise-cracking girls in teased curls, bobby socks, and pedal pushers-capture the look and sound of the 1950s in a rollicking musical that salutes the rock 'n' roll era. While hip Danny Zuko and wholesome Sandy Dumbrowski resolve the problems of their mutual attraction for each other, the gang sings and dances its way through such nostalgic scenes as the pyjama party, the prom, the burger palace, and the drive-in movie.*

Auditions for performance roles took place this week, with many students bravely stepping up and showing their array of talents. A full cast will be announced soon. In addition to this, dance audition will be taking place soon, and we have many students who are eager to take on a backstage, technical or front of house role. Make sure that you are reading Compass announcements for any further information.

The support that has already been shown from our students, teachers, parents and community mean that we are already well on our way to putting on a fantastic show. Go Greased Lightning!

Melissa Andrews  
Production co-ordinator

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### **Senior School News**

The teachers and students in Senior School have had a very busy beginning to school.

In Year 10, there has been information about Work Experience in Term 3 and beginning the process to make sure everyone is able to access this opportunity. Mr Cove

and Mr Manks have more details about this if you require it.

The Year 11 students have already begun their practice for the Debutante Ball in March and there is much excitement from the students for this highly anticipated evening.

Students in Year 12 have begun the year with a Conference held at Monash University (Peninsula Campus). Students were given information about their current courses, plans for next year and some team building games. There will be a more extensive report on this Conference in the next newsletter in addition to information for parents who were unable to attend the evening session on how to support your child through Year 12.

In addition, the students have settled well in to their classes, making excellent use of their class time and forming positive learning partnerships with their teachers.

Fiona Tonizzo  
10 – 12 Wellbeing Leader on behalf of the Senior School Team

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### **Careers**

The class of 2016 received their Tertiary offers and the diversity of courses students have been offered is amazing.

86% of students who applied for a tertiary place, received a first round offer. 53% of those students received their first preference and just a few of the courses included: Nursing and Midwifery at Deakin University, Science Advanced-Global Challenges (Honours) Monash University, Chiropractic/Health Science, Creative Writing, Nanotechnology and Design and Building courses all at RMIT University, Exercise and Sports Science, Law and Speech Pathology at the Australian Catholic University, Teaching courses at Monash University, Federation University and Swinburne University, Nursing at Monash. One of our VCAL students has decided to continue her studies in fitness and has a place at Holmesglen TAFE another will undertake training for Division 11 Nursing. There are lots of exciting pathway and career opportunities for these young people. We look forward to hearing about their progress as they move onto the next phase of their learning.

Good luck to all in 2017

I will be taking Long Service Leave for 2017. Melinda King has taken on the role of Careers Practitioner at the College. She comes with a wealth of knowledge and will be able to answer all questions related to Careers.

Rosalyn Nimmo Careers Practitioner.

# Parents of Year 12 Students



## Surviving year 12

Fact sheet for parents

### Supporting your Year 12 student

Year 12 is considered by some to be the most important year of schooling. There is an enormous amount of pressure on Year 12 students and it comes from parents, teachers, schools and the students themselves. There are a number of ways parents can support their children as they work through their final year of schooling.

#### Balance

It's important that you make sure your teenager has lots of opportunities to play sport or pursue an artistic activity like drama or music. Also, try to make sure that they spend time with their family, and friends.

#### Routine

Parents can do lots of things to help teenagers develop smart study habits. These skills do not develop automatically and parents will need to be patient while these new habits develop and the old, unhelpful ones are discarded.

### A study-friendly home

#### Environment

It is important to make your home a place where it is easy for your teenager to think.

Help eliminate distractions such as television, radio, MP3 player, talking, noisy younger children, or cluttered work areas. It is impossible to watch TV and study. Show how important schoolwork is by keeping the TV off during study time.

- Keep your conversation to a minimum and encourage younger children to use this time as their study time or quiet time, too.
- Provide physical conditions that help concentration, such as good lighting, cool temperatures and a table or desk with a supportive chair.
- The work area should be neat, have enough space for writing and reading, and should be kept clear of any clutter.
- Remind them to sit with good posture in a comfortable chair. Lying down may be so relaxing that it interferes with concentration.

#### Making time to study

You can support your teenager by helping him or her focus on their study.

- **Schedule study time.** Study times should be scheduled for whenever there are the fewest distractions or interruptions. If your teenager needs help to establish a routine, have a chat about which times could be best used for studying. Set that time aside on at least five days a week. Use the afternoon or early evening as study time, as this leaves time later in the evening for relaxing activities.

- **Plan study in two 50 minute blocks with a 15 minute break.** One 50 minute slab of study is better than several hours full of distractions and interruptions. Use a kitchen timer or an alarm clock to signal breaks and to indicate the end of study time.

#### At exam time

The exam results do not represent your teenager's future. The end of secondary school is the start of the next and usually more exciting time in your teenager's life. The moment the exams are over, celebrate. Such a celebration is crucial, as the message you will be reinforcing is that the final score is incidental. Getting through high school is a wonderful achievement in itself.

#### When the exam results arrive

This period can be even more uncomfortable than the exams because everyone feels so helpless. There is always the potential that your teenager might fall short of his or her predicted scores, and the goal of achieving a place at his or her chosen university, TAFE or apprenticeship might seem unreachable. This can result in weeks of anxious waiting. Everyone in the family is treading on eggshells, and when the results do finally arrive, quite often the family can be too emotionally drained to celebrate or regroup.

You need to recognise that feeling on-edge or uneasy is a natural response. Talk to your teenager about the way he or she is feeling and the choices and options available. Let him or her know that both you and their school are supportive.



### When the results are not what your teenager hoped

Don't be fooled if your teenager appears to be indifferent to his or her results. Almost all students care deeply about their results and about the attitudes of their friends and relatives.

- Encourage your teenager to talk and reassure him or her. Reassure your teenager that failing an exam doesn't mean he or she is a failure, and that while you may all be disappointed in the results, you are not disappointed in him or her.
- If your teenager was after a score that would allow him or her into a particular university course, reassure him or her that all is not lost, with thousands of university places being offered through the preference process.
- Put things into perspective. Reassure your teenager that everyone loses out at some time or other, and failing an exam isn't the end of the world. He or she could re-sit and do better, or decide to go a different route next time.
- Encourage your teenager to look for positive ways forward, to consider all the options available. Your teenager may want to consider completing Year 13, working or travelling for a year, or doing an internship. A career counsellor or university advisor may be able to help.
- Tell your teenager that whatever happens, you will be behind him or her 100 per cent.

### Do's and don'ts

#### Do

- guide, support and encourage your teenager
- encourage healthy eating, regular exercise and plenty of sleep
- take your teenager's efforts seriously
- create an effective work space in the house if your teenager can't study in their room
- take a whole family approach to supporting your teenager
- remind your teenager of his or her goals

- give your teenager positive feedback whenever possible
- encourage your teenager to take study breaks when necessary
- remember, the final year is about your teenager, not you
- help your teenager put, and keep, the year in perspective
- keep an eye on his or her emotional health – look for changes in sleeping or eating habits, and see your GP if you are worried
- let your teenager know that you're there when he or she needs you
- encourage your teenager to believe in themselves.

#### Don't

- nag
- overload your teenager with domestic chores
- tell your teenager to work harder or he or she will fail.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Mission Australia (2012) Youth Survey 2012, page 5.
- <sup>2</sup> Gough, D. Edwards H (2008) Pressure takes big toll on students. The Age Newspaper, April 16 2008
- <sup>3</sup> McGraw, K., Moore, S., Fuller, A. and Bates, G. (2008). Family, peer and school connectedness in final year secondary school students. Australian Psychologist, 43: 27-37
- <sup>4</sup> Robotham, J. (2003). Suicide linked to pressure of HSC. Sydney Morning Herald Newspaper, January 23, 2003

### Where to find more information

#### beyondblue

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Learn more about anxiety and depression, or talk it through with our Support Service.

☎ 1300 22 4636

✉ Email or 💬 chat to us online at [www.beyondblue.org.au/getsupport](http://www.beyondblue.org.au/getsupport)

#### mindhealthconnect

[www.mindhealthconnect.org.au](http://www.mindhealthconnect.org.au)

Access to trusted, relevant mental health care services, online programs and resources.



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### The research

According to the Mission Australia Youth Survey in 2012, coping with stress and school or study problems remain major concerns for respondents.<sup>1</sup> Research has shown that Year 12 can increase rates of depression, anxiety,<sup>2</sup> suicidal thoughts<sup>3</sup> and even suicide.<sup>4</sup> In particular, the fear of failure and the apparent lack of prospects as a result of poor results in Year 12 were identified as major stressors for many young people. As well as managing school, many young people were also trying to cope with work, family and social commitments. The cumulative effect of these demands appears to be leaving many young people feeling besieged and struggling to cope.

## **College Board Elections**

The Mount Erin College Board is the governing body of Mount Erin College. As such it has responsibility for the overall smooth running and financial integrity of the College. The College Board comprises five parent representatives, 4 DEECD employee representatives (including the Principal, who serves as the Executive Officer) and 3 community representatives. Parent representatives must have a child currently enrolled at and attending Mount Erin College. They cannot be an undischarged bankrupt or be serving a sentence for an indictable offence. The College Board meets on the evening of the third Tuesday of the month, at the College. Meetings last approximately two hours. Tenure of each Board member, with the exception of the Principal, is 2 years. Elections are held annually.

For 2017, 3 parent positions, and 1 DET positions are vacant and need to be filled. Nominations will open on **Wednesday, February 15** and close on **Wednesday, February 22**. If more eligible nominations are received for each category, an election will be held to determine the outcome. If an election is required, the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed at the College by Thursday, February 23. Ballot papers will be prepared and distributed on or before Monday, February 27.

Please give consideration to nominating for College Board. It is a valuable and important contribution you can make to your child's education.

Nomination forms (you can self-nominate or nominate another person) are available from the College Office from **Wednesday, February 15**.

**Karen Lee**  
**Principal**

## Notice of Election

### College Board Election Process and Timetable

This document provides information on the Mount Erin College School Board Election process for 2017. Please note the time line and important dates. The process must be completed on or before 31 March 2017.

#### COLLEGE BOARD ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE FOR MOUNT ERIN COLLEGE

EVENT		DATE
a)	Notice of election and call for nominations	Wednesday, 15 February 2017
b)	Closing date for nominations	Wednesday, 22 February 2017
c)	Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday, 23 February 2017
d)	Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday, 27 February 2017
e)	Close of ballot	Wednesday 8 March 2017
f)	Vote count	Thursday 9 March 2017
g)	Declaration of poll	Friday 10 March 2017
h)	Special Board meeting to co-opt Community members (the Principal will preside)	Tuesday 21 March 2017
i)	First Board meeting to elect office bearers (the Principal will preside)	Tuesday 21 March 2017

## Mount Erin College School Board Elections – Information for Parents

### School Board Elections 2017

**What is a school Board and what does it do?** All government schools in Victoria have a school Board. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school Board is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

**Who is on the school Board?** For most school Boards, 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 and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DEECD employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school Board. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the Board because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school Board elections.

**Why is Parent membership so important?** Parents on school Boards provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school Board 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 Term 1 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 Board
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

**Do I need special experience to be on school Board?** 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 of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school Board elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school Board at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Board, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

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 Board this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the Principal for further information.



## Mount Erin College

# Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Devices

### POLICY

#### **Rationale:**

- There is a range of mobile technology available today including mobile phones, mp3 players/iPods, digital cameras and other similar devices. Mount Erin College recognises that all of these have the potential to be incorporated appropriately into lessons, opening exciting new approaches to learning. The increased ownership and use of such devices requires that school administrators, teachers, students and parents take steps to ensure that they are used responsibly and appropriately.

#### **Responsibilities:**

Mobile technology devices may be brought to school with the understanding that the following conditions apply:

1. It is the responsibility of students who bring a mobile device to school to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document.
2. The decision to provide a mobile device to their children should be made by parents or guardians and parents should be aware if their child takes a mobile device onto school premises.
3. The student must take full responsibility for their mobile device(s). Devices should be clearly labelled with the name of the owner. The school or staff will not be responsible for their loss, theft or damage. Students who bring mobile devices to school do so at their own risk.
4. Students are not to bring mobile devices (phones, smart watches, etc.) into the classroom and should leave them secured in their lockers.
5. The ONLY exception to students having mobile devices in classes is if the teacher specifically allows the devices for a specific learning activity/purpose. Teachers will indicate this requirement through the Compass lesson plan and may also allow students to retrieve their device from their locker where required..
6. Students will use their mobile device(s) in a way which reflects the core values of the College, including the values of responsibility and social awareness.
7. Student use of mobile device(s) must adhere to the law. Any misuse of such devices may be subject to legal ramifications.

#### **Student Agreement:**

When students use their mobile device, they agree to:

- use it for learning purposes as directed by their teacher
- act responsibly and not use the device to find, create or send information that might be harmful, inappropriate or hurtful to themselves or anyone else
- not take their mobile device(s) to class, exams or assessment tasks

To this end, when using their mobile device as a phone or internet device, students will:

- keep their phone in their lockers
- access the internet only when it is appropriate to do so, with permission from their teacher on every occasion
- protect the privacy of others and never post private information about another person on websites or by using SMS messages

When using their mobile device as a camera, students will:

- only take photos and record sound or video when being supervised during a class or lesson
- seek permission from individuals involved **before** taking photos, recording sound or videoing them (including teachers)
- seek written permission from individuals involved **before** publishing or sending photos, recorded sound or video to anyone else or to any online space
- respect others when they talk to and work with them online and never write or participate in online bullying
- seek teacher permission before uploading any content to websites (e.g. blogs)

This Acceptable Use Policy for Mobile Devices also applies to students during school excursions, camps and extra-curricular activities.

Students acknowledge and agree to follow these rules. They understand that their access to mobile technology at school will be renegotiated if they do not act responsibly and courteously. Student use of any mobile devices must adhere to the Cooperative Classrooms Policy. Any breach of these conditions will result in mobile device privileges being suspended or revoked. This could include the mobile device being confiscated.

If a mobile device is confiscated, the following processes will apply:

- First incident: The incident will be recorded and the item will be stored in the General Office. The student can collect the device at the end of the day.
- Second incident: The incident will be recorded and the item will be stored in the General Office. The student can collect the device at the end of the day. A letter will be sent to the parent/guardian advising that subsequent incidents will result in the parent/guardian having to collect the item personally.
- Third and subsequent incidents: The incident will be recorded and the item will be stored in the General Office. The parent/guardian will be telephoned and asked to come to the office to collect the item personally. The student will not be permitted to collect the device.

**Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

16<sup>th</sup> August, 2016

In Years 7-10, students miss on average almost a week every term - that's four weeks of school per year.



Going to school every day is the single most important part of a 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 progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### 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 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** – 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 classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

# EVERY DAY COUNTS

## Secondary school attendance

- 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 classroom teacher 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.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

## Community News



### **WESTERNPORT REGIONAL BAND INC.**

info@westernportregionalband.org.au

#### **Musicians welcome to come and play in this dynamic Community Big Band!**

The Westernport Regional Band would like to invite musicians to rehearsals and concerts.

**WHERE:** Mount Erin Secondary College Music Centre

Robinsons Road Frankston (Melways Ref: 102J 10).

**WHEN:** Most Thursday evenings 6.45pm- 9.30pm

Beginners are catered for during the first hour and then music becomes more complex.

Musicians may stay for all or part of the evening.

Whether you are serious about improving your playing or just want to have fun playing music with a terrific group of people, this dynamic big band is for you. We play a broad selection of music; jazz, swing, Latin, concert and rock, etc. "It's gotta be fun!"

#### **Who are the players?**

It is surprising how many of the band performing today started as absolute beginners and in some cases a few short years later they are playing at professional standards. These young players make a very real contribution to the band, resulting in a dynamic sound. We give our up and coming players many opportunities for solos and features to gain performance experience and confidence whilst being able to learn from the examples set by some of our more experienced players. The band's powerful musical presence, and with its ever evolving sound, keep it fresh, vibrant and challenging which also attracts experienced players. We have musicians of all ages working together. After completing school you can continue your music too.

#### **Why do we love playing?**

It's the audience response that inspires us to move up another notch in performance standards. The band plays at a dozen festivals or events annually, included in these are Main Street Mornington Festival, Mornington Farmer's Market, Mornington Winter Jazz Festival, Australia Day at Hastings, Westernport Festival, Saturday Night Live, Music Network evening and Jazz BBQ. At the Lyrebird Christmas Festival at Carrum Downs we played to a crowd of 4,500 people and this concluded with a huge fireworks display. Your family and friends are welcome to come and enjoy the music at all these occasions; it is a great community.

The Westernport Regional Band acknowledges the ongoing support given by the Mornington Peninsula Shire and Mount Erin Secondary College.

Enquiries: Email: [info@westernportregionalband.org.au](mailto:info@westernportregionalband.org.au)

Phone: Jan 5977 6777

Facebook: Westernport Regional Band

Website: [www.westernportregionalband.org.au](http://www.westernportregionalband.org.au)

**WESTERNPORT REGIONAL BAND INC.**

P.O. Box 296 Hastings Vic 3915 ABN 88 223 620 036



# **FRANKSTON YCW Junior Football Club 2017 Registration Days!**

**Sunday Feb 12, 11am-2pm & Sunday Feb 19, 11am-2pm**

## **JUBILEE PARK CLUB ROOMS NEW PLAYERS WELCOME**

**GIRLS & BOYS FROM AUSKICK, U9 - U17**

\*New players registering for 1st time – please bring birth certificate or passport for proof of age

## **ONLINE REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!**

**Go to our web site & join today!**

**[www.stonecats.com.au](http://www.stonecats.com.au)**

Need more Info? Contact - Jason McMillan 0433 057 797 or email : [j.mcmillan8@bigpond.com](mailto:j.mcmillan8@bigpond.com)





## Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for education costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner), such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work, and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Angie O'Toole or Terri Fallows, your local Saver Plus Coordinators:  
 (03) 8781 5937  
[angie.otoole@bsl.org.au](mailto:angie.otoole@bsl.org.au) / [terri.fallows@bsl.org.au](mailto:terri.fallows@bsl.org.au)

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered across Frankston and Mornington Peninsula by the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.

**FRANKSTON ROVERS**  
 JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

**FOOTY FEVER**

Boys and Girls  
 Come down to our  
**Registration Day**

**SUNDAY 19TH FEBRUARY 3PM**

Bruce Park, Margate Ave  
 Frankston

Auskick, U9-U17's  
 Girls U12, U15, U18's  
[registrar@frankstonrovers.com.au](mailto:registrar@frankstonrovers.com.au)