

Friday February 18, 2022

Key Dates

- Friday February 25
Coastal Swimming
- Friday March 11
School Photos
- Thursday March 24
House Athletic Sports

Principal's Report

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope the newsletter update finds you and your families well as we continue to navigate the current COVID-19 operational guidelines.

Rapid Antigen Tests

Thank you for your ongoing support with the rapid antigen testing of our students. So far, we have had relatively few cases when compared to other schools. This shows that our community is following the recommended procedure and frequency of testing.

We will continue to send regular updates as positive cases are reported.

Close Contacts.

The DET's COVID-19 Operational Guidelines clearly define a 'household close contact' as being when a student has spent more than four hours indoors in their home, accommodation or care facility with a positive contact.

Further, after consulting with the DET's COVID-19 task force, a 'household-like' close contact is when a student has spent four hours or more indoors in close contact with a positive case. This may include when students are in work settings.

In these circumstances students will need to isolate for seven days and cannot be at school during their isolation period.

Parents Visiting on Site.

It is a requirement of the Department of Education and Training that all adult visitors to our school site sign in at reception and show evidence of being fully vaccinated. Please support our office staff and our need to ensure the health and safety of our school community by cooperating with this statewide requirement.

Parent and carers who have chosen not to vaccinate will be required to contact the college via phone or email rather than attending in person.

Energy Drinks and Chewing Gum.

Staff have noticed an increasing number of students consuming energy drinks, (Monster, Mother, Red Bull, etc) while at school. Please note that due to the significantly negative health impact these drinks have on young people, they are banned from school premises.

Energy drinks have an extremely high sugar and caffeine content that can cause a number of serious side effects in young people. Multiple studies have shown that these side effects include:

- Sleep issues
- Poor learning
- Loss of focus
- Increased anxiety
- Jitteriness
- Headaches
- Increased risk-taking behaviour
- Dehydration (due to high caffeine content)

The caffeine content in some of these large energy drink cans is equivalent to 14 cans of other caffeinated soft drinks.

Any student seen with energy drinks on school premises will have them confiscated.

**ABSENCE
LINE**

5231 9888



Colac Secondary College acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Gulidjan Country, where we learn and teach.

The school pays respect to their Elders - past, present and emerging.

Principal's Report continued

We have also noticed an increase in chewing gum at school. Chewing gum is banned from school as students do not dispose of it appropriately and because it is extremely unsightly when it is on concrete, desks, lockers, etc.

Sweetened and flavoured chewing gum also adds to tooth decay, headaches, indigestion and jaw pain. Studies have shown that chewing gum also leads to children eating less healthy food.

Any students with chewing gum will also have it confiscated.

It is important that all students attend school each day with adequate healthy food to support growth and learning. We ask all parents and carers to please support us in ensuring that we are working together with the health and wellbeing of our students in mind.

School Council Elections

Over the coming weeks we will be commencing the School Council Election process. This is a wonderful opportunity for community members to join our school council and one of its sub-committees and become involved in shaping the future direction of the school.

Please give this some consideration and look out for future information via Compass.

Thank you for your support on these important matters.

Shane Elevato
Executive Principal.

Tutor Learning Initiative

In 2021, the Victorian Government invested \$250 million towards the Tutor Learning Initiative which enabled all Victorian government schools to engage over 6,400 tutors to provide students with extra targeted learning support in 2021.

In October 2021, the Victorian Government has invested an additional \$230 million of funding to extend the Tutor Learning Initiative for the 2022 school year, which will continue to provide school students with targeted learning support.

The initiative is the single largest investment in targeted learning support in the state's history. It's expected to support more than 200,000 students across all year levels in secondary, primary, and specialist schools.

At Colac Secondary College the TLI program for 2022 is well underway. Simone Senisin, who has previously worked as an Assistant Principal and English/EAL VCAA Exam Advisor and Assessor, is working one-to-one and with small groups of Year 10-12 students who require additional tutoring and support in English. The students have joined the program for a variety of reasons; from struggling with remote learning to just needing that additional boost with motivation and organisation to achieve their best.

Congratulations to all of the students who have demonstrated aspiration and achievement by joining the program and we look forward to seeing your learning growth because of your commitment to the additional support.

Clare McKay
Leading Teacher- DET Initiatives





Swimming Sports

Friday February 11th was the annual CSC House Swimming Competition held at Bluewater Aquatic Centre.

We wish to congratulate all students who represented their house by swimming in an event and supporting their fellow classmates. This year we had a record 264 students attend the House Swimming Competition which is fantastic and hope this number continues to grow in the coming years.

This year we are pleased to announce the winners of the CSC House Swimming Carnival was **Otway**.

- 1st Otway**
- 2nd Barwon**
- 3rd Hesse**
- 4th Murray**

CSC would like to congratulate each of the following age group winners for 2022:

- 12-13 Year Female Champion - **Sally Cox**
- 12-13 Year Male Champion - **Jack Larson**
- 14 Year Female Champion - **Sienna Nelson**
- 14 Year Male Champion - **Ryan Furney**
- 15 Year Female Champion - **Isabella Knight**
- 15 Year Male Champion - **Cam Wheadon**
- 16 Year Female Champion - **Ella Harwood**
- 16 Year Male Champion - **Brody Lynch**
- 17 Year Female Champion - **Eloise Murnane**
- 17 Year Male Champion - **Heath Bircanin-Suiter**
- 18 Years and Over Female Champion - **Peggy McGee**
- 18 Years and Over Male Champion - **Matthew Swayn**



With the completion of the House Swimming Carnival CSC would like to congratulate the top 2 place holders from each event who will be representing CSC in the Coastal Swimming Carnival at Bluewater Aquatic Centre on Friday 25th February.

Once again a massive thank you to all students and staff for assisting throughout the day. The swimming sports would not have been as successful without all of your help.



Swimming Sports



Colac Secondary College Online Uniform Shop

<https://colac-sc.vic.edu.au/uniformshop>



Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students commenced the year with a two day camp, at Queenscliff. The camp provided students with the opportunity to create new friendships and develop team building skills.



Year 7 Camp



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families. Payment amounts this year are \$225 for eligible secondary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances. If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5231 9800 and ask for an application form. You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page. Forms can also be found on the CSC Website.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

Personal Accident Insurance or Ambulance Cover

Reminder to parents / guardians:

Parents are reminded that the *Department of Education* 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 / transport and any other transport costs.

In some circumstances, medical or other expenses will be paid by the Department where it is assessed that it is likely, in all the circumstances, that the Department is liable for negligent (careless) acts or omissions of its staff / volunteers.

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors.

The *Department of Education* does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property.

SCHOOL BUSES

School Contract Buses (Country Runs)

For information regarding **school contract buses** please call Kerrie O'Connor on 5231 9800.

Students travelling on a country bus must use the appropriate interchange bus (if required), students are not permitted to walk between Colac Secondary College and Trinity College. Scooters are also not permitted on the bus.

Town Bus Service

Please Contact CHRISTIANS on 5231 2203 for all information regarding Town Bus travel.

Ticket prices for 'Town Services' are \$1.20 one way, \$2.40 return and \$11.20 weekly. Tickets are available from the driver (please have correct change).

Half yearly and yearly passes are also available from the Christians office.

BUS PASSES

Please be aware the School Contract buses are designed to transport approved students only.

Students cannot be issued bus passes for sporting purposes (football / netball training) or for going to a friend's house.

FACE MASKS

The wearing of face masks on all buses is mandatory. Unless you have an exemption, you will not be permitted to travel on a bus.

We would appreciate if all travellers could follow the direction of their bus driver in respect to mask wearing.



Careers Corner

With Frank Park, Careers Education

Career Development

Here are a few pointers to assist parents/carers to help students explore career options.

A few lucky people know from an early age what they want to spend their life doing. The rest of us fit somewhere between having some idea and no idea about it.

Young people can be unclear about their direction in life. It's often not until their early twenties that they gain a good sense of who they are.

Finding out who you are and what you want to do is a process that depends on many factors.

1. Stay calm and open-minded

Remember, it's your child's life and they are your child's choices to make, not yours. Many parents believe that they must insist on certain directions for their child. There is a difference between guidance and bossiness. Children appreciate guidance (where you explore and talk respectfully). They usually don't appreciate control (where you focus on what you want).

2. Be a positive influence

Talk about your career. Tell your child how you arrived where you are today. Perhaps as you talk you could draw your 'path'. Highlight events and experiences that influenced your goals and how you did or didn't realise them. Focus on your hopes and dreams, how you managed change, what external factors affected your decisions. Talk about how comfortable you felt at various stages, as well as how you feel now. Share any plans and goals you might have and how you see your future panning out.

3. Encourage your child to talk to other adults about their careers

Hearing about careers from adults young and old will help your child think about their place in society at different life stages. They could talk to their grandparents, aunts, uncles, their friends' parents or other family, friends or people they know.

4. Watch movies and television together

Most characters in movies, television dramas, and novels have, will have, or did have some kind of work. Discuss the characters and what they do. Think about how satisfying their lives are and how work contributes to their happiness.

5. Talk about the people you know or those you meet in your day-to-day activities

Ask questions like, 'Do you think Sally likes being a nurse?' or 'Do you think the dentist is good at her job?' You can discuss the benefits or challenges of certain jobs, and consider why people work.

6. Do things together

Baking a cake, planting a veggie garden, making a website – whatever the activity, do it together. Compliment your child on their skills. Keep it simple: 'You're very organised when you cook, I see: turning on the oven, preparing the tin, assembling all the ingredients before you start'. Wait for a response. In time, you can discuss these skills further and link them to the workforce. For example, you could say 'Plumbers need to be organised, otherwise they miss out on making money because they're too slow and people don't use them again'. These chats highlight the importance of recognising one's own skills and how such skills are valued in the workplace.

7. Ask your child what would they choose if they could be or do anything in the whole world

Your job here is to listen and remember. You can revisit the responses when a career-related discussion arises or a decision needs to be made. 'Would you consider drama as an elective? You said once you wanted to be a famous actor. Your child may then open up about the benefits of drama. On the other hand, they may look at you with disdain and offer a correction. In any event, there is an invitation to continue talking about their current dreams and aspirations. People are usually happier and more satisfied if they can turn their dreams into reality. You can help your child by showing how that works in practice.

8. Make it easy for your child to participate in work experience programs

This may include formal work experience or other school-organised fieldwork that has a focus on the workforce. Knowing what does not appeal is just as important as knowing what does. Wide experience can open eyes and change views.

9. Encourage your child to participate in activities at school or in the community

Your child could help out at a sports club, or get involved in the school production. They could do 'special' jobs around the house such as painting or serious spring cleaning. Such activities count as work. They develop work skills, which are valuable to learn and practice. Your child will learn that work can be routine, fun and dull on occasions. They will feel prepared for thinking about and making career decisions.

10. If your child is ready, encourage them to seek a part-time job

Encourage them to speak with the school Careers person, who can assist them to write/modify their resume and it's important for you to be there when they deliver their resumes in person. Support your child if they don't get the job. When they do, there are forms to fill out, tax file numbers to obtain, bank accounts to set up and superannuation choices to make. Knowing how to do these things is important and can change a person's view of themselves. Once at work there will be highs and lows, perhaps shift work, conflict, and customer issues to deal with. Again, these experiences can and do influence career decisions.

CSC CANTEEN IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Would you be interested in helping in the school canteen?

Canteen time : 10.30am to 1.30pm

No handling of money required.

If so, please provide your details below :

NAME : _____

CHILD'S NAME : _____

PHONE : _____

Please circle your preferred day/s & availability:

MON TUES WED THUR FRI

WEEKLY FORTNIGHTLY MONTHLY TERMLY

OR

PHONE: Canteen (JO) 5231 9849



OCR FM and Majella Brown present a

Country Music and Mixed Dance Afternoon

Sunday 27th February

1pm to 5pm



Starring **Robyn Gleeson and Leon Rowbottom, Ian 'Bidge' Boyd, Bruce McKenzie and Steve Rose and the Warm Sands Duo.**

An OCR FM fundraiser

Door prize and raffles on the day

Tea and coffee available

Admission \$10

**COVID rules at the
time will apply.**



For more information contact Majella 0429 358 441 or Rosemary 0401 940 847