From the Principal

Welcome Back! It is fantastic to see the students fully dressed in uniform and coming to class with all the materials needed including netbooks for senior students. This will be a very busy and exciting year for our College with architects appointed, Netbooks into play and perhaps the most students we have ever had. Hopefully our building program is not too far away.

The big challenge for the school this term is the adjustment to the five period day. This does cause more concentrated teaching and less wasted time but it is an adjustment to all. For example lunch now is quite late. It is therefore necessary for all staff and students to eat something at recess. Please support the College as we travel through this adjustment.

As I mentioned last month we have had some excellent improvements in the College particularly in the Senior School over recent years. We are not complacent in our desire for continual improvement and so this year staff will be very highly focussed on improvements in Teaching and Learning across Years 7-12. We are doing this as we always want to see the best outcomes for our students that we possibly can. Families can easily support us in this effort by coming prepared to class, following the student code of conduct, completing homework reading or revision at home and in particular doing as we promote in our values working at your personal best.

It was a fantastic pleasure to attend the Australia Day Ceremony and Awards on January 26th. Jackson Denereaz, Eden Rowe, Teisha Miller and Brooke Collins all gained Awards for their outstanding efforts. The Band, which is going to London and Paris at the end of term, played brilliantly. It was an immense and very proud moment for the College community.

May I take this opportunity to wish all members of the Band the very best in these last few weeks before departing for London and Paris. Mrs Claudia Barker has done an immense amount of work on preparing for this and is to be thanked most sincerely. Without her the trip would not have eventuated. The Band will be playing in Paris, Westminster Abbey and Fromelles. Many thanks to large numbers of community organisations which have raised money to ease the costs on families as well. We very much look forward to final reports and even possible publicity which may follow this event.

Swimming Sports are coming very soon. Could all families please note in their diaries of this event and you are welcome to attend. The sports are at the KWR Pool on February 16th.

Many thanks to the Assistant Principals for all their work in getting the school ready to start. This does involve many hours and is very much appreciated!

I hope we all have an enjoyable year.

Kym Bridgford
Principal

KEY DATES COMING UP
Year 12 Investiture Night Wednesday February 15th
Year 7 Information Evening February 21st
Band Information Evening February 29th
Congratulations

ADAM MCMASTER, STURT Year 10

Adam McMaster has been selected in the Victorian School Sport 15 and under Cricket team. It has been a great performance by Adam after a gruelling training regime starting in June 2011, to make the final team of 13. His impressive performances both in Junior and Senior cricket caught the eye of the Victorian team selectors and he was invited to attend further selection trials that culminated in his selection.

Adam played his first Senior game in ‘A’ grade for Koo Wee Rup last season when he was 14 years old and from there has gone on to be a regular A grade player, more often than not opening the bowling! No mean feat at 15. Adam has been training and playing practice matches to prepare for the School Sport Australian Championships to be held in Hobart between February 25th and March 3rd. We wish Adam and his teammates all the best and hope they can win the Australian title! We know Adam will be a great ambassador for Koo Wee Rup Secondary College. Anyone wishing to help Adam with his upcoming trip can purchase a raffle ticket for $2. Hopefully, this is just the start for Adam in his budding cricket career.
2012 TERM DATES

Term 1  February 1 to March 30
Term 2  April 16 to June 29
Term 3  July 16 to September 21
Term 4  October 8 to December 21

UNIFORM SHOP:
The Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday during term time from 8am to 2pm. Please note that it is now located behind the canteen.

Any queries regarding uniform contact Julie McKay on 0430 134 548

TERM 1 CALENDAR, 2012

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 8-10</td>
<td>Year 12 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13-15</td>
<td>Outdoor Ed. Camp Unit 1</td>
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<td>February 13</td>
<td>Deb. Ball practice starts</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Senior Cricket</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Year 12 Investiture Night</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>House Swimming Sports</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>Year 7 Information Night V2 excursion</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>School Photos Years 10 to 12</td>
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<td>February 24</td>
<td>School Photos Years 7 to 9</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>HPV</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Year 8 Sport</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>Band Information Night</td>
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<td>V2 excursion</td>
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<td>March 6-9</td>
<td>902 Camp</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>Year 7 and 10 injections</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>VCAL 2 excursion</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>Division Swimming</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Intermediate Sport</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Year 9 Geography excursion</td>
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<td>Year 7 Economics excursion Group 1</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
<td>Senior Sport</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Year 12 Seminar morning</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>Year 9 Geography excursion</td>
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<td>Year 7 Sport</td>
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<td>March 23-25</td>
<td>HPV Camp</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Year 7 Economics excursion Group 2</td>
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<td>March 26</td>
<td>Division Golf</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27-30</td>
<td>Outdoor Ed. Camp Unit 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>TERM 1 ENDS AT 2.15PM</td>
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THE NEWSLETTER

The first edition for the year and editions which accompany reports will be posted home to all families. Other editions will be given to students to take home. The Newsletter can always be found on the College website at www.kwrsc.vic.edu.au
Please note that the Newsletter normally comes out every 3 to 4 weeks.

This edition is particularly long because we wanted to pass on essential information for the year. Please keep it as a reference guide.

THE BEST TIMES TO VISIT

Parents and guardians are always welcome to contact the College for information or to discuss concerns. If you want to come in person, please note the following: Staff meetings are held between 8.30 and 8.50am on most mornings and on Monday and Wednesday afternoons between 3.30 and 4.30. Staff will not be available at these times unless it is an emergency.
It is always best to make an appointment time in advance, if possible.

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS:
8.00am – 4.30pm. Please note that after 4.30pm phone calls will go to the switchboard message bank.

WHO TO CONTACT 2012

PRINCIPAL:
Mr Kym Bridgford

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS
Mr Peter Bottomley
Mr Ben Gwynne
Miss Leonie McGinley

HOUSE DIRECTORS
Mrs Olive Elston
Mrs Joanna Anketell
Mr Marc Fleming

STUDENT WELL BEING COORDINATOR:
Mrs Sue Hermans
BUS COORDINATOR:
Mr Peter Scott

LITERACY COORDINATOR: Ms Megan Thompson

ENGLISH COORDINATOR: Ms Kathryn Webster

MATHS COORDINATOR: Ms Heike Demarteau

INTEGRATION COORDINATOR: Mrs Cathy Binding

INTERSCHOOL SPORT COORDINATOR: Mrs Katarina Dokic

BAND COORDINATOR: Mrs Claudia Barker

PRODUCTIONS COORDINATOR: Mr Damien Mizzi

All subject areas also have coordinators. Please contact Mr Gwynne for further information.

INTRODUCING OUR 2012 SCHOOL LEADERS

College Captains:
Eden Rowe and Jackson Denereaz

EDEN came to us from Pearcedale Primary School. This year she is studying English, Further Maths, Maths Methods and VET Music. In her spare time she likes to do Ballroom dancing, hang out with friends and sleep and eat! In the future she would love to go to university and work overseas.

As College captain she would like to represent the school to the best of her ability, help out students from all year levels, listen to their concerns and voice their opinions, develop her public speaking skills and support student/teacher relationships.

JACKSON came to us from Tooradin Primary School. This year he is studying English, Further Maths, Legal Studies and Accounting. In his spare time he likes to swim, play football, go bike riding, catch up with friends and just relax! In the future he would like to study Accounting at Monash University, get a cadetship or traineeship with a large accounting firm and travel to Europe, Canada and northern USA.

As College Captain he would like to get the Year 7s involved in all events so that their transition is exceptional; mentor younger students; try and increase whole school participation in school events and just try and be a good role model for younger students.

College Vice Captains:
Jessica Chapman and Jason Pongracic

JESSICA came to us from Kooweerup Primary School. This year she is studying English, Maths Methods, VET Music and Physical Education. In her spare time she likes to play netball, go shopping and chill out with friends. In the future she would like to get into Monash University’s double degree in Paramedics and Nursing and then continue with Paramedics. As Vice College Captain, she would like to mentor junior students, help anyone with any problems they are having and represent the College to the best of her ability.

JASON came to us from Devon Meadows Primary School. This year he is studying English, Further Maths, Maths Methods and Physical Education. In his spare time he studies and revises classwork. In the future he would like to
be rich. As Vice College Captain, he would like to help create a positive learning environment where all students feel safe, valued and confident to pursue personal growth and educational excellence.

Performing Arts Captain: Stephanie Hirst

STEPHANIE came to us from Tooradin Primary School. This year she is studying Literature, History, Studio Arts and Health and Human Development. In her spare time she plays guitar, piano and saxophone; works with the Children’s Performing Company of Australia; and hangs out with friends. In the future she would like to go to New Zealand for a vacation, study Psychology at university and then become a psychologist in the army.

As Performing Arts Captain this year she wants to raise awareness of the Performing Arts in the school, bring larger crowds to shows and assist with fundraising.

Sports Captain: Max Healey

MAX is studying English, Further Maths, Biology and Physical Education this year. In his spare time he enjoys football, outdoor activities and spending time with mates. In the future he would like to get an apprenticeship as an electrician and learn more things about it as he works. As Sports Captain this year he wants to make events like the Swimming and Athletics Sports as fun and as exciting as he can. He would also like to introduce new activities to do with sport to get students outdoors and having fun.

Information Technology Captain: Hayden Hood
HAYDEN came to us from Officer Primary School. This year he is studying English, Chemistry, Physics, Maths Methods and Specialist Maths. In his spare time he likes to chat with friends, play the PS3, read, pull computers apart and troll the internet. In the future he would like to go to university and possibly study engineering, and travel to places like New Zealand.

As Information Technology Captain he would like to help teachers and students with any tech related problems they have, and work with Mrs Nicolson and the techies to make the computer environment as user friendly and fun as possible. He would also like to bring back YouTube to the school.

As the Sustainability Captain she hopes to get everyone working together to improve our environment. She wants to decrease litter, promote recycling and the reuse of containers, and ultimately help to make the school a cleaner, greener place with the help of her peers.

STUDENT MANAGEMENT
Miss McGinley, Assistant Principal

A warm welcome to 2012, especially to the families of students new to the school. At the time of going to print we were about 1080 students and we are still enrolling students each day. We want to retain the best traditions of our past including our focus on being a community school but we are also undergoing significant change.

As the College continues to grow in size we continue to look for better ways to promote a sense of community, strong connections between staff and students and strong connections between the College and the parents.

To make it easier for students to find someone to go to for assistance, all students have been assigned to a House Group. Each group has students from Years 7 to 12 and is led by a House Group teacher.

Each morning House Groups meet from 9am to 9.10am. This is an opportunity for teachers and students to discuss concerns and interests and to build a strong pastoral relationship. This will be particularly valuable at the start of the year when students have many questions about school procedures and are looking for ways to make new friends. We hope that the senior students in each group will act as mentors to the younger students, help new students in particular and actively promote the many activities available within the College community.

At the start of the term, all students were given a letter which identifies their House Group teacher/s. If a parent wants information about any matter or wants to discuss a concern, he/she should first contact the House Group Teacher who will if necessary then refer the issue to other staff members.

To make communication between teachers and parents/guardians even easier, we would encourage all families to provide an email address.
address if they have one – as it can be much quicker to reply to an email than to connect via phone hoping that two people are available at the same time.

To make communication between the College and parents/guardians and students even easier, we have created a new College web site over the holidays. This will be updated every week.

There is a PARENTS SECTION which has information on the following:

- School notices which you can download
- Bushfire emergency procedures, especially plans for school bus runs
- Cyberbullying – advice for parents
- College policies
- College Council
- Parents Association
- Student wellbeing
- Uniform
- Other General Information

There are also other sections:

CALENDAR – has all major events for the school over the year so you can plan ahead
LEARNING – provides information about the subjects we teach at the College, plus information on Assessment and Reporting and additional EXTRA ACTIVITIES – provides information about sport, the Performing Arts, HPV, the Deb Ball, etc.
STUDENTS – provides information about school leadership, the four Houses, and Careers.

This year we are introducing online booking for Parent Teacher interviews and this will be done through the web site. Further details will be sent out later in the term.

The information on this website now replaces the paper copy of the Parent Handbook which used to be posted out at the start of each year.

We want our College community to thrive and everyone to achieve their personal best.

In the first few weeks, students should be

- Settling into their new classes
- Developing and maintaining effective work habits
- Asking for help EARLY if required

- Working well with other people and making new friends
- Working out which activities outside the classroom they can become involved in and benefit from

Parents are always welcome to contact the College if they have concerns.

SOCIAL MEDIA, MOBILE PHONES and iPods

We have introduced new Social Media policies to cover the use of computers, mobile phones, ipods and other digital devices. Students who have received a Netbook have already received and signed their policy. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 who do not have Netbooks need to complete the Social Media policy included with this package and return it to the school by Monday February 27th. If the form is not returned by then, students will be logged off the computer system until it is returned.

A SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RULES ABOUT MOBILE PHONES AND IPODS

Students are allowed to bring these items to school BUT:

- The College will not replace damaged or lost devices
- Students are never allowed to use them in class unless a teacher gives permission
- Students are never allowed to photograph or film anyone at school
- Students are never allowed to use mobile phones to engage in harassment
- The devices must not be used in any manner or place that is disruptive to the normal routine of the college.
- The school reserves the right to prohibit students from bringing them into certain spaces or during certain activities e.g.: science rooms, technology rooms, etc.
- They must not be taken into exams or into classes where the teacher deems their presence to be inappropriate during an assessment task.
• It is important that students display courtesy, consideration and respect for others whenever they are using a mobile phone or iPod.

We are very concerned about cyberbullying where students use technology to harass and bully other students. This includes using mobile phones to send text messages and images and using computers and mobile phones to access Facebook and other social networking sites to spread hurtful information and images.

Most cyberbullying starts outside of the school and we need parents/guardians to be very alert to what their children are saying to others, especially via Facebook.

Please note that students are banned from accessing Facebook at school.

**STUDENTS WITH NETBOOKS**

**Damage to screens**

Whilst all Netbooks come with a manufacturer’s three year warranty, this does NOT include any breakage of the screen. This sort of damage is considered to be the responsibility of the user. Parents will have to pay the repair costs which will be approx $140 depending on the extent of damage.

**THE NEW UNIFORM**

As stated in 2010 and 2011, from this year we expect all students both old and new, to wear the new College uniform items: the polo shirts with logos and the rugby tops. (Students may also wear the existing woollen jumpers.) The old blue windcheater is no longer part of the uniform, nor are plain white or plain blue polo shirts.

We are aware that there has been great demand for items from the Uniform Shop and some items have sold out. Please send your child to school with a note if this affects you. The Uniform Shop has assured us that the polo shirts will be available this week and the dresses as soon as possible.

If families have financial concerns at the start of the year and are not able to purchase all the uniform items, please contact Mrs Hermans, the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, for advice and assistance.

Please note **thongs** are NEVER acceptable as footwear at school – even when it is 38 degrees or we have a free dress day. If a student cannot wear school shoes and has an acceptable note to explain this, he/she must wear alternative shoes which have a closed in toe.

**STUDENTS WHO WEAR THONGS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND CLASS. THIS IS A HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE.**

**Is your child doing homework?**

Homework has already been set in core subjects and in some elective subjects. It is important that students develop effective home study habits right from the start of the year. If your child has not completed any homework yet, there is a problem. Please contact the relevant House Group teacher.

**THE HOMEWORK CLUB**

To help families with homework, Kooweerup Secondary College conducts a “Homework Club” for students after school each Tuesday from 3.30pm – 4.45pm. It is held in the library with computer access and is supervised by Kooweerup Secondary College teaching staff.

All students are most welcome to join. An application form, available from the General office, must be completed before the student attends.
SENIOR STUDENTS are encouraged to stay back any night after school until 6.30pm to study. We offer peace and quiet, access to computers, no telephones, no televisions and ideally no other distractions. They just need to let Miss McGinley know they are staying back late and sign the register in her office.

What’s in your child’s diary?
All students have been provided with a College diary which is to be used to record homework and information about school events. Diaries are not to be decorated with pictures, graffiti or irrelevant personal information. Pictures of hunks, babes, Australian Idol candidates, Twilight stars, etc., etc., are not appropriate.

Parents are welcome to use the diary to communicate with teachers and teachers may choose to do the same.

If parents note that their child’s diary has very little homework recorded in it, they should follow up the matter with the student’s House Group teacher.

CAFFEINATED ENERGY DRINKS
Students are not allowed to bring caffeinated energy drinks e.g. Mother, V, Red Bull, Red Eye, Rockstar, Wicked, Monster, Synergy, etc. into the school or consume them at school. This policy has been approved by College Council out of concern for the students’ health and wellbeing and because high consumption of such drinks may affect students’ behaviour and ability to focus on their work at school. We are particularly concerned about the growing number of students who walk into the school in the morning drinking large cans of such drinks and who then tell us that this is their staple breakfast.

If a student has a banned drink, it will be confiscated. This applies whether the drink is in the student’s hands, in a student’s locker or bag, and whether the can has been opened or not.

SCHOOL BUS TRAVEL

KOOWEERUP SECONDARY COLLEGE is a ZONED SCHOOL FOR TRANSPORT.

The Education Department provides free bus travel for students who live more than 4.8 kilometres from the school and are within the Kooweerup SC zone. Maps are available from the College.

It is the responsibility of the College to allocate students to a bus, allocate bus stops and oversee the behaviour of students on the buses. The College must look after the needs of eligible ‘bus transport’ students from some primary schools as well as the secondary college. We also have to cater for new enrolments throughout the year. Therefore, at times, it becomes necessary to move students from one bus to another to order to accommodate all the students in our zone.

BUS TRANSPORT IS STILL A PRIVILEGE.

In order to ensure that bus transport is safe and efficient there are a number of rules which have to be followed. When families enrol their child for bus transport (green form), they agree to the following:

1. Students who are repeatedly a safety hazard will not travel on the system.
2. Students must: follow the bus driver’s and bus captain’s instructions the first time they are given, get on and off safely, wait for the bus to drive on at least 100 metres before crossing the road; while at the bus stop, stay off the road and wait quietly and sensibly; while traveling behave safely and remain in their allocated seat.
3. Students must NOT: eat/drink on the bus, put any part of the body out of the bus, shout/scream, use bad language, throw anything inside the bus or from the bus, fight.
4. Regulations state that students are only allowed to go on their allocated bus. Students attempting to travel on any other bus will be put off the bus system for a week.
5. Misbehaviour: Students will be dealt with by their schools for misbehaviour at bus stops, bus parks and on the bus. A serious incident (e.g. distracting the driver) will result in a suspension from bus travel for 5 days. The first minor incident will result in a warning and the parents being contacted. Second
and subsequent minor incidents in a school year will result in suspension from bus travel.

CAN I TRAVEL ON A DIFFERENT BUS IF I BRING A NOTE?

NO. Students are only permitted to travel on the bus to which they have been allocated. They will not be allowed to travel on any other bus – whether it is for work, sports practice, staying at a friend’s house, etc. The buses are provided to get the students to school and home again – they are not a form of public transport. Even if your student brings a note requesting travel on another bus, this will not be allowed. Any student who attempts to travel on another bus will be put off the bus system for a week.

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2012

School photos will be taken over two days: February 23rd (Years 10, 11 and 12 and family/friends photos) and February 24th (Years 7, 8 and 9). Please note the forms and the money do not come back until the day of the photos. They are not collected by the school but are handed directly to the photography company on the day.

IMMUNISATIONS 2012

provided by the Shire of Cardinia

First round: MARCH 8th, starting at 9.30am

Year 7: Hepatitis B; Gardasil (girls only)
Year 10: Adolescent Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis
Information sheets and consent cards are included with this package.

Any students in Year 8 or Year 11 who missed out on these immunisations last year, should see Miss McGinley for a consent card.

If your child has had an adverse reaction to injections in the past and/or you suspect that your child will be very distressed when having an injection at school, it is better for you to take him/her to your family doctor.

M-RATED films

Please read the letter accompanying this Newsletter about M rated films. There are times when some of these films are excellent resources for teaching and learning. However, students in Years 7 to 10 are not allowed to watch M rated films without their parents’/guardian’s permission. A list of the films shown in the school is detailed on the letter.

We will never show MA rated films.

Student Wellbeing

Hello and welcome to 2012 at our College.
The Student Wellbeing Team this year consists of: Mrs Sue Hermans, Coordinator, Mrs Susan Banning, Adolescent Health Nurse in the College on Thursdays and Fridays and Mr Martin Gillespie, Chaplain, in the College on Mondays and Fridays. Both Susan and Martin work with individual students in a pastoral role, as well as with class groups in activities organised by the class teacher. Mrs Debbie Hobson has some time allocated to her to organise some wellbeing programs within the school in order to complement our existing programs such as Peer Mediation, Restorative Practice, lunchtime craft activities and the “MyBus” Youth Bus of the Cardinia Shire. The College also has access to a Psychologist and Youth Worker when necessary, and some other services provided by the Department of Education. Support and counselling can be provided as required; arrangements are made through me. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about your child’s wellbeing.

Mrs Sue Hermans
PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION

YOUR VOICE

We don’t bake cakes and we don’t sell lamingtons.

The Parents Association is a vital part of the College community and provides an excellent forum for parents and guardians to be involved in their child’s education.

Our meetings focus on discussing College events, policies and issues of interest to those present. The Parents Association has provided the College with valuable input on matters such as reports, parent teacher days, booklists, camps and uniform. The Assistant Principal, Miss McGinley, is present at the meetings.

The association normally meets the first Monday of each month during term time. We would love to see you there.

THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE ON MONDAY MARCH 5TH AT 7.30pm in the Conference room next to the General Office.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE:

If you have a current Health Care Card you may be eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance for a student up to the age of 16. Forms are available from the General Office. Applications must be submitted before February 29th.

CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT INFORMATION:

It is imperative that correct contact details are submitted to the General Office so if you have any changes to your address, telephone numbers or email address please send these details in writing to the General Office as soon as possible.

CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION:

If your child suffers from a medical condition please ensure that the General Office is supplied with these details. This is extremely important for serious medical conditions. If your child is required to take medication during the school day it must be handed into the General Office with a written note explaining time and dosage. Please note that no medication such as Panadol is kept at the College so if your child suffers from migraines you must supply the College with medication suitable for your child.

INSURANCE IN CASE YOUR CHILD HAS AN ACCIDENT AT SCHOOL

The Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. One such company which has contacted the College is EBM Insurance Brokers. Further details are available from www.studentcover.com.au.

FROM THE CANTEEN

On behalf of the canteen we would like to welcome all the new families to the school and welcome all our other families back for another year. The canteen is owned by the school and all the profits made by the canteen go back to the school. To make this work we also need volunteers to help out.
in the canteen. If you would like to volunteer to help even if it is one day a term that would be very helpful.

The hours for helping are 10.15 to 2 pm or whenever you can help. Everything is supplied so all you have to do is turn up. So just give the school a ring and I will be happy to talk to you about it all.

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered so far and look forward to meeting with you all again and also new volunteers who would like to help.

Heather McMillan – Canteen Manageress

BAND NEWS

Mrs Claudia Barker

The College instrumental music program offers free tuition in all wind and percussion instruments. There is a fee for guitar and voice lessons. Students have lessons once a week during class time – on a rotating timetable so that they do not miss the same class each week. Enrolments will be taken from all year levels at the instrumental music information evening on Wednesday February 29th at 7.30pm.

Please ring me in the Band room 59979237 if you have any queries.

SPORTS NEWS

INFORMATION FOR YEAR 7 STUDENTS and other students new to the school this year

HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS – THURSDAY 16th FEBRUARY 2012

Each year Kooweerup Secondary College holds its House Swimming Sports at the Kooweerup Swimming Pool. While the following information will be given out in House meetings prior to the swimming sports, it is recognized that Year 7 students may have questions about certain aspects of the day.

Please discuss the following details with your child:

On the day of swimming sports:
- **Home Group** – as normal
- **House Meetings (same room as previously** – to check absences and fill spots)
- At 9.15 am students will walk to pool as a House/group under staff supervision.
- Students will set up/sit down in designated House areas.

Other points:
- **Entry fee** - nil
- Our VCAL students will be selling drinks and snacks. The canteen will process lunch orders and bring them to the pool. Students may also B.Y.O their own lunch.
- **Money** - no money is required unless you wish to buy something from the pool shop.
- **Uniform** - no College uniform required – wear clothing in your House colours to get a point for your House. There is also a ‘Fashions by the Pool’ competition. (Thongs not allowed until down at the pool).
- **House colours** = Bass – Blue; Flinders – Red; Mawson – Green; Sturt – Yellow.
- **Competitors** – must listen to announcements to ‘marshal’ for their event(s) to ensure they do not miss their event(s). (All participants get points for their House).
- ‘House Spirit’ – first House competition for the year, so all students are encouraged to participate in some way to get points for their house, and above all - have fun! (Helpers are also awarded points.)
- **House Captains** - should be wearing a bucket hat in their House colours to be easily identified.
- ‘Sunsmart’ - Make sure students wear a hat, sunglasses and sunscreen.
- **NO BALL SPORTS.** DO NOT BRING PLAYING BALLS – they will be confiscated.
- **Music** – no music players – they will be confiscated. (Personal iPods/MP3s etc... may be brought at your own risk.)
- ‘NO Street passes’ - Students are to remain at the pool for the entire day!
- **Spectators** - Parents and other relatives are more than welcome to spectate on the day. (sign visitor’s register on entry)
- **Dismissal** - Students will be dismissed from the pool at normal time. (3.15) Buses will be leaving from the pool. If students walk home then they will leave from pool. If students are picked up from school normally then arrangements should be changed for pick up from the pool.
Absences - If a student is absent on the day of sports, then like any other day, a note of explanation is required as normal. No note within a week of the swimming sports means the student will be ineligible to participate in the term 1 interschool sport competition.

If you have any queries please contact the College.

Katarina Dokic
Sports Co-ordinator

CAMPS FOR 2012
Advance notice is provided to allow extra time for payments which I am sure, you’ll all appreciate.

The camps for 2012 will be as follows:

**Year 7 Camp**
- **Location:** Phillip Island Adventure Resort, Vic.
- **Dates:** Wed 20/6 – Friday 22/6 (two nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Adventure – beach, high ropes, team rescue, slingshot giant swing, a huge flying fox, low ropes and much more.
- **Cost:** $240.00

**Year 9 Camp**
- **Location:** Melbourne CBD
- **Dates:** Wed 25/7 – Fri 27/7 (two nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Stay in the city and explore fun activities available in the CBD.
  - MCG, Queen Vic Market, Aquarium, Lygon St, Eureka tower and much more.
- **Cost:** $245.00

**Year 10/11 Camp**
- **Location:** Central Australia
- **Dates:** Sunday 16/9 – Tuesday 21/9 (9 nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Bus trip with stopover in Bolivar, sleep underground in Coober Pedy and then stay in Alice Springs, Wartakka and Yulara. Uluru, the Olgas, Standley Chasm, MacDonnell Ranges and Kings Canyon are some of the breathtaking highlights.
  - & Sky window (facing the fear of heights) and the Monster Course (a surprise course that will ensure that the teams work together and get very muddy)!
- **Cost:** $950.00

**Year 8 Camp**
- **Location:** The Summit, Trafalgar, Vic.
- **Dates:** Mon 6/8 – Wed 8/8 (two nights)
- **Activities:**
  - Initiative and team building games, Snowy river challenge (an obstacle course of mud pits and tunnels), Leap of faith (learning to trust one another), Sky bridge & Sky window (facing the fear of heights) and the Monster Course (a surprise course that will ensure that the teams work together and get very muddy)!
- **Cost:** $245.00

Marc Fleming, House Director

HOUSE DIRECTORS’ REPORT

Welcome back for the 2012 school year! We are really looking forward to the year ahead, with our very successful House system for student organisation, wellbeing and engagement. The House system gives all students the opportunity to participate in activities and achieve their personal best. Flinders took out the honours in a very close House competition last year, with Bass, Sturt and Mawson keen to challenge them in 2012.

There have been some changes in staff in the area of Student Organisation, so please check carefully to find the right person to contact if you have any concerns. An excellent source for this is the letter that your son / daughter was given on the first day of term explaining which house, house group and form they are in as well as their designated House Group Teacher and House Leader.

The House Group Teacher is your first point of contact, but House Leaders can be contacted for more serious concerns:

**BASS** – Mr Lucas, Mr Bourke and Mrs Morris

**MAWSON** – Mr Miller, Mr Palser, Mrs Evans, Mrs Hamilton (Thursday only)

**FLINDERS** – Mr Jones, Miss Notman, Miss Perrin

**STURT** – Mr Ham and Ms Burgess

Additional support and advice can also be provided by the Transition Co-ordinator, Mrs Gallant, for Year 7 students, and the Year 12 Manager, Mrs Miller for Year 12 queries only.

All years at secondary school are important but each year brings different challenges. We welcome all new students, in particular, the Year 7 cohort. Here are a few hints to make things easier for both parents and students during this transition time:
• If using a padlock, give your House Leader / House Group teacher a spare key
• If using a combination lock, do not share the code with anyone. You may like to tell your House Leader / House Group teacher in case you forget!
• Be prepared! Take the right equipment to school
• Ask questions if unsure (students and parents)
• Talk to your son / daughter about their day and encourage them to do their best.

The above points are also still very relevant to all other year levels – even Year 12 students leave their locker keys at home sometimes!

As students move into Year 10, 11 and 12 they are beginning to think about and decide on their futures and, therefore, their school perspective changes. Students will be competing against not just their peers but the entire state, not only in Year 12 results and tertiary / TAFE placements but in apprenticeships and gaining employment when they leave school. We encourage you to talk to your children and encourage them, as we will, to work hard from day one until the end of their school life. With hard work, determination, dedication and realistic goals, the sky is the limit. They must aim to increase effort both in class and at home through regular homework and effective study. All students should aim “To be the best they can”.

Already school life for all students is full steam ahead. Holiday homework should have been completed by Year 11 & 12 students, VET courses have begun or soon will, homework has been set and the Year 12s are going on a three day camp to the city in the second week of school.

For the year to start in a positive manner we need both parents/guardians and students to be aware of a few important rules.

• Students have been allocated a locker.
• Payment for locker hire should have been made by Thursday 9th February. If payment has not been made or lockers are not secured with an appropriate lock after this date, all books and materials will be removed from the locker until the above situation is rectified.
• Please ensure your son/daughter is in correct school uniform at all times and abides by the body piercing and hair colour policies. Remember only white attire under T-shirts. Please check that the uniform abides by the NEW College uniform changes, particularly shoes.
• Attendance: 90%. Students are required at school every day unless they are completing a VET course. If a student has a reoccurring medical condition which leads to frequent absences from school, this situation should be discussed with a House Director. All absences from school require that an appropriate note be produced within a week of the student’s return to school.
• House Group meetings - All students are expected to attend house group meetings at 9.00 every morning. Important information is given out at these sessions and attendance is also calculated from this.
• Year 11 & 12 students – All absences from school require that an appropriate certificate must be produced within a week of the students return to school eg: medical, dentist, specialist, etc. If absent for a personal reason eg: family matter, a parent/guardian must contact Mrs Miller (Year 12 only) or Mr Gwynne either before your son/daughter is absent (preferable, if possible), or before they return to school or on the day they return. All certificates must be handed directly to their House Group Teacher on the first day they return to school. No written notes will be accepted. NB: Yr 10 students completing a VCE subject must also adhere to this policy.
• Missed SACs by VCE students (School-Assessed Coursework i.e. tests, etc) – if a student misses completing a SAC because of an absence/s, they are required to complete it after school on the first Thursday they return to school. If appropriate documentation has been provided, the student will not be penalised.
• Studying after school: We encourage all Senior School students, in particular Year 12s, to stay after school and study and/or use the
computer facilities. They must sign in the book in Miss McGinley’s office.

YEAR 12

- Year 12 students who have study periods in the afternoon may go home to study after signing out at the general office. A note is required from home and must be signed by a House Director.
- Yr 12 students may go down the street at LUNCHTIME ONLY without needing a note but must sign in & out of the book kept in the Year 12 Centre.
- Year 12 Special Provision - During Unit 3 & 4, sometimes things happen that are out of their control e.g.: medical condition, family trauma, etc. Mrs Miller needs to know about it as soon as possible. Important things to remember: keep medical certificates and hand in as stated above or any other form of documentation that supports your situation and don’t panic. Always contact us and discuss the situation as sometimes solutions can be found quite easily e.g.: extension of time, etc.
- Students driving to and from school cannot have passengers nor can they drive other students down the street.
- In each newsletter there will be SAC dates for Units 3 & 4 so parents are alert to times of pressure for their child. Please encourage and support your child as much as possible as this will only help them achieve their best.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 12 Investiture Night</th>
<th>Wednesday 15th February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Information Evening</td>
<td>Tuesday 21st February</td>
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More information regarding the above events will be given out to students over the coming weeks.

Finally, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher, House Group Teacher, House Leader or the House Directors.

Olive Elston, Joanna Anketell and Marc Fleming
House Directors,
Student Organisation, Engagement and Wellbeing

YEAR 12 MANAGER WELCOME
Mrs Tania Miller

2012 – Yes, it has already started and so has school! This year the College introduced the new role of Year 12 Manager. The role involves overseeing Year 12 students in their studies, assisting with any problems that occur and helping them plan for not only this year but the future. It also involves helping any Yr 11 students undertaking a Unit 3/4 subject this year. So, firstly I would like to welcome back all Year 12 students and parents and I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Students have been given invitations for the Investiture night already. This evening is a great night and gives us the opportunity to set the tone for the rest of the year and includes recognition of our Yr 12 students and leaders, guest speakers including past students, highlights from camp and important information for students and parents. The evening begins at 7pm sharp and supper is supplied. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Finally, if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tania Miller
Year 12 Manager

Some of our Year 12 Leaders
BASS

Welcome back for 2012. We hope you have all had a good break and have come back to school refreshed and eager for the challenges that this year will present. We would like to congratulate Jamie Emms and Teagan Bligh on being elected House Captains and our Vice captains Jake Quinn and Brigette Brown. Welcome also to our new Bass house group teachers Ms Thompson (B11), Mr Beasley (B4), Ms Moulynox (B8) and Ms Elliott (B9). Mrs Morris has taken on the position of Bass house leader for 2012, meaning we now have three leaders this year to help sort through any issues involving Bass students as they settle into the school year. It was great to see almost all of our students in correct school uniform and diaries being used for homework and communication of information between teachers and parents. All of the Bass House community would like to wish the Year 12’s the best of luck this year as they strive to reach personal bests in their final year of secondary school.

We would like to encourage all our Bass students to be involved in a variety of activities this year. The key to an enjoyable and successful year is a balanced participation in extra curricula activities and a consistent and determined approach to study. We would love to see as many students as possible involved in the various house competitions this year, particularly the major events, but also in the accumulation of tokens (something we can certainly improve upon). The Swimming Sports will be held soon and provide a great opportunity for Bass House to get off to a strong start, preferably first place rather than the second we achieved in 2011.

We all begin the year with the highest of hopes that everyone will have the best year of their school lives, but if problems do occur please do not hesitate to contact us or the house group teachers.

Mr Gerard Bourke, Mr Mick Lucas and Mrs Leone Morris, BASS House Leaders

FLINDERS

We start with reference to last year......yes, we won the L.A. David Trophy!!! Fantastic!

After being so close in 2010, we went one better after finishing in front in a tight tussle with Sturt. All of our students should be very proud of their efforts. Everyone contributed to the success, regardless how large or small. We continued with strong participation in the sporting arena, and we did improve slightly in the academic area. There is still scope for further improvement here, so that should be one of our objectives this year.

We have an addition to the Flinders House Leaders this year, with Miss Shona Perrin joining Miss Claire Notman and Mr Ken Jones in the role. We have relocated our office, and are now sharing a space with Mawson House Leaders near the new portables (where the playground used to be). Students are still encouraged to drop in and see us, either to say hello or if they need assistance.

As House Leaders, we again direct all students to strive for the following:

- Do your very best work in and out of the classroom.
- Take responsibility for your own behaviour.
- Respect yourself and others.
- Get involved in as many activities at school as you can.

We, also, ask all our fellow Flindarians to make sure they:

- Are in full and correct uniform (or have a signed note of explanation), this includes facial piercings.
- Always put rubbish in the bin (particularly around the locker area).
- Follow the rules (particularly, in regard to following teachers’ instructions).
- Only use iPods or phones in class if their teacher has given permission.
- Always use the diary.

By doing all of these things students are more likely to reach their potential, and have a much more positive experience here at Kooweerup Secondary College.

This year we welcome a number of new House Group Teachers. We wish these staff members all the best! Our wonderful House Group Teachers are:

| F1 – Mrs Langford & Ms Orr | F7 – Mr Coburn & Mrs Needham |
| F2 – Mr Woon & Mr Kirkby | F8 – Mr Cope |
| F3 – Miss Gilliland | F9 – Mr Webb |
| F4 – Mr Sheers & | F10 – Mr Phillips |
Please remember these teachers in many instances can be your first contact at school. In particular, such issues like the organisation of work during absences, homework queries, diary organisation and minor class and yard incidents, friendships and student relationships, setting up contact with class room teachers, etc. Any major issue would be referred to the House Leaders.

The House swimming sports are just around the corner, and we are looking forward to defending our win last year in the pool. All Flindersians should be involved, whether it’s in the ‘serious’ events, novelty events, or showing up in RED. We need to make sure red is what we see!

We hope our year seven students settle in well to secondary school. They should make sure they ask for help if required. This may be related to where their classroom is, subject issues or general information about things to do with school. New students in other year levels are also welcomed. We hope you find Kooweerup Secondary a friendly and accepting school. We will endeavour to catch up with you soon to see how you are going.

Our year 12 students should also be highlighted. This year is when the hard work pays off. Organize yourselves to ensure all tasks are in by the due date and done to the best of your ability. While some sacrifices may be necessary, socialising, recreation, sport and part time jobs can still be possible. Having said this, don’t get to results time and have any regrets. The year is relatively short, so do your best. You, too, should make sure you ask for assistance if you need to. Speak to your teachers, your House Group Teacher, us or Mrs Miller if you need to.

We look forward to working closely with our elected student leaders – Olivia Corinthwaite & Phillip Etherton (senior House Captains) and Sara Tanner & Taylor Hannett (Vice Captains). We also congratulate Eden Rowe for being elected College Captain. These students should grasp this opportunity, use their initiative and try to make a real difference to the school!

We wish everyone a successful and rewarding 2012.

GO FLINDERS!!

Mr Ken Jones, Miss Claire Notman and Miss Shona Perrin, FLINDERS House Leaders
with you closely in order to strive for success this year.

Mila Soini & Phillip Carrigg (Senior House Captains)
Vanessa Mascadri (Senior Vice Captain)
Also congratulations to Jason Pongracic who has been elected as School Vice-Captain.
With swimming sports around the corner I encourage all Mawsonites, to be proud and wear green on the day. Also we encourage as many students as possible to be involved in school activities throughout the year. What a better way to start the year then representing Mawson at the pool, it doesn’t have to be in the competitive races. Just make sure you are doing something that leaves a positive impact for our house.
C’MON Mawson!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mrs Evans, Mrs Hamilton, Mr Palser and Mr Miller
Mawson House Leaders

House Group spotlight: MAWSON 1

STURT

Welcome back to school to all Sturt students and a special welcome to all Sturt students who are new to Kooweerup Secondary College this year.
As it is the beginning of the year all students are urged to bring a spare locker key to school that can be stored in the Sturt office in case of emergencies. Already in the first two days we have had to cut off several padlocks from lockers after students have lost their keys.
The whole school swimming sports carnival is approaching and will be held at the local Kooweerup Pool on Thursday 16th February. Students are encouraged to participate in events to help earn points for Sturt House. There are events that range from competitive swimming to relaxed, fun pool games. Students are also encouraged to dress-up in their house colours on the day – time to get yellow!
Points are awarded, on the day, to the best dressed students in a fashions-on-the-field parade.
Last year Sturt narrowly missed out on winning the LA David trophy for the third year in a row. We were pipped at the post by Flinders who beat us by a measly 17 points. This year we are confident that Sturt can reclaim the trophy if all Sturt students demonstrate their personal best at school and continue to participate in extra-curricular events. Here’s to a successful 2012
GO STURT!!!!

Miss Sarah Burgess and Mr Tony Ham, STURT House Leaders.

GETTING SETTLED AT SECONDARY SCHOOL

Even children who are keen to start secondary school can have mixed feelings about leaving behind the familiar world of primary school for a new environment. Here are some tips for making the transition easier.

1. Talk to your child about how they are feeling. Say it is normal to have feelings of sadness or worries about the new school.
2. Reassure them that everyone in their new class will be feeling much the same.
3. Encourage them to stay in touch with primary school friends.
4. Learn about the new school’s routines and timetables. Read the orientation information together.
5. If necessary, practice the trip on public transport. Discuss a back-up plan in case a bus or train doesn’t arrive.
6. Encourage them to organise their study space and use their school diary to write down teachers’ names, timetable and work requirements.
7. Remind them of other transitions they’ve managed successfully and that transitions take time.
8. Encourage your child to share their experiences with you. Make sure they know you’re available if things go wrong.
Tips to get everyone in the family through year 12

Parents are interested in providing the best support for their children so that they achieve their goals. Here are some ideas on how to do that.

- Guide, support and encourage your son or daughter
- Don’t nag
- Don’t tell them they will fail if they don’t work harder
- Encourage healthy eating, regular exercise and plenty of sleep
- Take their efforts seriously
- Create an effective workspace in the house if they can’t study in their room
- Get all the family to support the student
- Don’t overload them with domestic chores
- Let them know that you’re there when they need you
- Encourage them to believe in themselves
- Remind them of their goals
- Give them positive feedback whenever possible
- Remember the final year is about them, not you
- Encourage them to take study breaks when necessary
- Help them put the year in perspective
- Keep an eye on their emotional health—look for changes in sleeping and eating patterns and see your family doctor if concerned

Back to School 2012 – Tips for Parents and Carers

A significant ‘spike’ in asthma symptoms, and subsequent hospital admissions of children occurs during the first few weeks of Term 1. While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children coming into contact with triggers that they have had time away from now that they have returned to school.

What can parents and carers do to help their children avoid asthma exacerbations at school?

- Ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (eg. Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir or Bricanyl) as well as a spacer. Also ensure that you provide medication to the school or preschool that your child attends if required
- Ensure that you have provided the school or preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan that has been signed by a medical practitioner
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early asthma symptoms, and can self-administer their reliever medication properly
- Encourage your child to seek assistance from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms

For further information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 645 130 or email schools@asthma.org.au
Preparing Your Child for School
Sports Days

Sports carnivals are an important highlight in every school’s calendar, and it is important that all students are able to participate to the best of their abilities. Exercise is a trigger for over 50% of people with asthma, so asthma exacerbations are common on sports days. Parents and carers can take several easy steps to help manage their child’s asthma, and to prevent them from having a serious asthma attack.

- Return an updated Asthma Action Plan to the school so that staff are ready to respond appropriately to any asthma symptoms that your child may have
- Teach your child to recognise early asthma symptoms, and help them to feel confident to self-administer reliever medication (also using a spacer where possible)
- Encourage your child to notify staff if they experience asthma symptoms, even if they self-administer reliever medication and feel comfortable returning to activity
- Be aware that if your child is unwell or has poorly managed asthma, they are more likely to experience symptoms during exercise.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

TOORADIN JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
REGISTRATION DAY
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12\textsuperscript{TH}
11.00AM – 1.00PM
TOORADIN RECREATION RESERVE.

Please ring Colin Butler on 0438 331 112 if you have any queries.