

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

February
2017

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FUN FACT:



10% of the world's population is left handed.



From the College Principal

Welcome Back

We hope the break was enjoyable for all of our students and their families. We would like to extend a special welcome to those students and families who are joining us for the first time in 2017.

Our enrolment is set to increase once again in 2017. We anticipate a combined enrolment of around 1260 students at our Dudley and McBride Campuses (with approximately another 40 young people in our Community VCAL and Outreach support programs).

The way our 700 Dudley and 560 McBride students have settled in to their academic year has been very pleasing.

In 2017 our Year 12 cohort is the smallest we have had for many years. However with larger year levels following, there will be accommodation issues in 2018 at McBride and the relocation of the our Senior Campus to the "precinct site" in McKenzie Street remains a priority. I am pleased to report that early in the year the Masterplan for our new school was endorsed by the Department's Major Projects division. Work continues but ultimately a favourable allocation in the upcoming State Government Budget remains the key to progressing the project.

New Staff

In 2017 we welcome fourteen new teaching staff to the College. It is exciting to welcome such a large number of new teachers. They have also settled in very well and are already making significant positive contributions.

Joining us at the Dudley Campus:

- ◆ Jesse Boyd (Mathematics)
- ◆ Frank Zhou (Mathematics)
- ◆ Kayne Fayolle (Humanities)
- ◆ Nick Harrison (English)
- ◆ Georgia Burns (English)
- ◆ Andrew Hamilton (Humanities)
- ◆ Louisa Leong (Japanese)

At McBride we welcome:

- ◆ Kathryn Ayoubi (Psychology/English)
- ◆ Kate Sly (Outdoor Education/PE)
- ◆ Marni Purvis (Health Education/PE)
- ◆ Patrick Nowak (Psychology/English)
- ◆ Alice Enter (Maths/Science)
- ◆ Cornel Laub (English)
- ◆ Penny Morris (Food Technology)

I am also very proud to point out that three of our new appointments were former students of WSC.

Leadership Team (Term 1)

Our College Principal, Garry Dennis, is on long service leave in Term 1 and as a result we do have some changes in our Principal team. Darren Parker will be the College Principal in Garry's absence, while Margaret O'Donnell will serve as the McBride Campus Principal. It is great to have the opportunities to develop our skills as a team this term.

- ◆ Darren Parker (College Principal)
- ◆ Gay Findlay (Ass't College Principal)
- ◆ Ross Bramley (Dudley Campus)
- ◆ Marg O'Donnell (McBride Campus)

From the College Principal Cont...

Trainees in 2017

Also joining our staff in 2017 are this year's AFL SportsReady Trainees. These trainees provide valuable assistance to staff and students while completing an additional accredited certificate course. All of our trainees were Year 12 students in 2016 who are completing their traineeship as part of a "gap year" before moving on to further study. In 2017 our trainees are:

- ◆ Jessica Colla (Science/Laboratory Technician)
- ◆ Angus Brown (Information Technology/Computing)
- ◆ Taya Murdoch (Physical Education/Sport—Dudley Campus)
- ◆ Lucy Mulqueeny (Physical Education/Sport—McBride Campus)

Compass Management System / Communication with Staff at WSC / Newsletters

All families are encouraged to contact the school if they require assistance for their child at any stage during the year. You will receive regular newsletters via e-mail (please contact the school if your details change). If you do not have access to e-mail please ensure that your child collects a newsletter from the office.

The "Compass" program is the key resource for attendance and student reporting. Reports, Progress Reports, Newsletters and other correspondence are all now sent via Compass. This program has been very well accepted by parents and teachers. The program provides the capacity for easy communication between parents and teachers. Please remember to let us know if any of your contact details (including e-mail address) change. Alternatively you can make changes yourself if you log on to Compass (*the Office can provide your log on details if you have forgotten them*).

Compass also provides the capacity for you to approve your child's absences.

While most parents have found the transition to on-line communication to be effective and convenient, some parents may not have e-mail access or may prefer to receive hard copies of reports. We can accommodate this by making hard copies available for collection at the school.

WSC's Compass portal can be found via our web-site or directly at:

<https://wonthaggisc.vic.jdlf.com.au>

School Council

In 2017 we are seeking three parents to nominate for our School Council. Please see relevant information and paperwork on last two pages of newsletter. Being a WSC Council member provides an opportunity for parents to contribute to the College. Please contact me at the school if you would like to discuss your potential involvement further, 5671 3700.

Follow us on FACEBOOK

Wonthaggi Secondary College has a Facebook page. If you "like" our page you will access additional posts where we highlight students achievements and advertise upcoming school events.



Darren Parker - College Principal

School Council Elections 2017- Information for Parents

Parents interested in nominating for School Council are invited to do so by completing the attached nomination form and returning it to the school by Friday February 24 (9am).

There are three vacancies (2 year terms).

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **Elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Dept. of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school.
- **Elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council 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 February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

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?

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate. Once the nomination form (see over) is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Please contact the school if you would like to discuss the option of standing for school council.

Contact the College Principal (Darren Parker) for further information (ph. 5671 3700).

Wonthaggi Secondary College Council - Parent Nomination Form

Parents interested in nominating for School Council are invited to do so by completing the below nomination form and returning it to the school by Friday February 24 (9am).

There are three vacancies.

Please contact the College Principal (Darren Parker) for information (ph. 5671 3700).

School Council Elections - Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

I wish to nominate:

Name of person making nomination:

Residential address:

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Home phone: Business Phone:

e-mail:

I am the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of
who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator:

Date:

Candidate to complete

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate:Date:

Please return to the office at either campus by 9am Friday 24 February 2017