

Wonthaggi Secondary College COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1

February
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Darren Parker
College Principal

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From the College Principal

Welcome Back

We hope that everyone in our WSC community had a great summer break with families and friends. We would like to extend a special welcome to those students and families who are joining us for the first time in 2018. Our College has a record enrolment of 1330 students in 2018. This includes 240 Year 7 students, with new enrolments also occurring across all other year levels. The way our 730 Dudley and 600 McBride students have settled in to their academic year has again been very pleasing.

For our teaching staff, the work on intensive collaborative teaching and learning strategies developed last year will also continue at both campuses. Additionally, the College's support programs for at-risk youth have been enhanced with the development of a shared program with Wonthaggi PS and Wonthaggi North PS that targets younger students.

The traditional camps, sport, performing arts, community service and academic activities will all remain an important part of the College's programs.

Of course, WSC is particularly excited about the development of its new senior school in McKenzie Street and progress remains on track. Additionally, the refurbishment of the Home Economics room at the Dudley Campus is nearing completion and students will be able to access the new facility in the near future.

New Staff

Along with new students, the College has welcomed four new staff members this year, and many experienced staff members have also returned from leave situations in 2017.

They have all settled in very well and are making significant positive contributions. Joining us at WSC in 2018:

- ◆ Harry Wykes (Humanities—McBride)
- ◆ Hayley Dench (PE/Science—Dudley)
- ◆ Stephen Carr (Technology—Dudley)
- ◆ Neil Austin (Technology—McB & Dudley)

Leadership Team (Terms 1&2)

Darren Parker will again be the College Principal and Margaret O'Donnell will serve once more as the McBride Campus Principal. As part of a significant leadership re-structure undertaken during 2017, we have an expanded team with Phil Hughes serving as Assistant McBride Campus Principal.

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

Trainees in 2018

Also joining our staff in 2018 are this year's AFL SportsReady Trainees. These trainees provide valuable assistance to staff and students while completing an additional accredited certificate course. Once again, all were Year 12 students in 2017 who are completing their traineeship as part of a "gap year" before moving on to further study. In 2018 our trainees are:

- ◆ Tom Mendes (Science/Lab Technician)
- ◆ Louis Paxton (PE/Sport—Dudley)
- ◆ Ally Kershaw (PE/Sport—McBride)

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.



Achieving success in a caring and creative environment.

From the College Principal Cont...

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. 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>

It is also available as an "app" through the iTunes store and Google Play



School Council

In 2018 we are seeking five parents to nominate for our School Council. Please see relevant information and paperwork on last two pages of newsletter. It is a particularly exciting time in our College, and being a WSC School Council member provides an opportunity for parents to contribute to the College. Please contact Darren Parker at the McBride office if you would like to discuss your potential involvement further (56713700).

Each year there a number of important notices that we need to bring to the attention of all members of our school community.

USE OF STUDENT IMAGES/NAMES

At Wonthaggi Secondary College we celebrate the efforts of our students by highlighting their participation in school events and their achievements in our newsletter, local newspapers, on-line, the school magazine and so on. Often photographs of the students (and student work) are included.

Please notify the General Office if you do not give approval for images of your child and his/her name to be used in the above ways if this has not already been done. If you do not contact the school, it will be assumed that it is permitted to use images and to use the name of your child in school and media publications, school diaries, the school web site, etc. If at any time your circumstances change and you do not wish your child's name or image used it is vital that you contact the Campus Principal immediately.

BUS PASSES

As in recent years we are required by regulation to not permit casual travel on school bus services. In addition to this we continue to have very limited spare seating available on our buses and are not able to accommodate requests for bus passes. As a result parents, carers and students should consider other transport options.

Requests of an urgent nature should be applied for in advance of the day through our Bus Coordinator, Alan McMahon, who is based at the McBride Campus. Regular bus travellers will continue to utilise the service as normal.

School Council Elections 2018 - 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 Wednesday March 7th (9am). There are five vacancies (two year term—3 positions; one year term—2 positions).

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. Department of Education & Training (DE&T) employees can be Parent members at their child's school.
- **Elected DE&T 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. DE&T 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).

McBRIDE CAMPUS

McBride Avenue
Wonthaggi 3995
Phone: 5671 3700
Fax: 5672 1578

DUDLEY CAMPUS

South Dudley Road
Wonthaggi 3995
Phone: 5672 0900
Fax: 5672 4136

WEB:

www.wonthaggisc.vic.edu.au

EMAIL:

wonthaggi.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

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 Wednesday March 7th (9am). There are five vacancies (two year term: 3 positions; one year term: 2 positions).

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 & Training:

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.

Tenure (please tick): one year two years

Signature of Candidate:Date:

Please return to the office at either campus by 9am Wednesday March 7th , 2018.