Dear Parents and Friends,

**SPEED ZONES**

With the 2017 school year now formally commenced, it is an opportune time for school communities to be reminded of the importance of road safety around schools.

School Speed Zones have been enforced from the commencement of the school year and I need to alert parents/carers to pay attention to the safety speed signs around our school's campuses.

**CARS AND YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE SUMMER MONTHS**

Melbourne and greater Victoria will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period. Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important never to leave children alone in a car. Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature. Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death. Young children's smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.

**WELCOME**

Welcome to the new school year. I hope you were able to enjoyed a peaceful and relaxing break. It is my pleasure to welcome new or returning staff members:

Dylan Nexhip (Year 3/4 Learning Community Leader), Claire Bourke (Year 5/6 teacher), Karli Myers (Year 5/6 Wellbeing), Benita Morden (Year 3/4 teacher), Fiona Wallace (Indonesian), Jenny McCarthy (Indonesian), Nick Fenaughty (Health and Physical Education), Kerry Gannon (Health and Physical Education), Jarrad Walker (Health and Physical Education and Year 9 Year Level Coordinator), Chloe Harvey (English and Biology), Jamie Harding (Technology), Jayden Howe (Humanities), Julian Bluett (Mathematics) Aaron Gillespie (Science), Heather Thorley (Mathematics), and our trainees Liam Nedeljkovich (Sport), Courtney Parsell (Performing Arts) and Zac Warde (Grounds)
I would also like to extend a special welcome to our 54 new prep students, 96 Year 7 students and the other new students and their families to Kyabram P-12 College.

Our school newsletter, Channels, is a very important part of the communication structure of our school. Channels is placed on Compass and our college website each Thursday. There is a lot of important information in Channels, so please take the time to read it.

**CONTACT WITH THE COLLEGE**

The school year has started well for the students and staff, and we would expect that it will continue this way. There will be times, no doubt, throughout the year when parents will need to be in touch with the College to pass on information and clarify requests or expectations.

At the primary campus the first point of contact should be your child’s class teacher. At the secondary campus the Year Level Coordinators should be contacted in the first instance. They are: Year 7 – Miss Lainie Lockwood or Mrs. Leonie Harding, Year 8 – Miss Renee Howell or Miss Caitlin Powell, Year 9 – Mr Jarrad Walker or Miss Katharine Corrin, Year 10 – Miss Sonia Layton or Mr Mark Ogden, Year 11 - Miss Angie Heale and Year 12 – Miss Dianne Robilliard.

The next points of contact are the Learning Community Leaders, Prep – Mrs Kellie Brennan or Mrs Breanna Hawken, Year 1 – Mr Andrew Nilbett, Year 2 – Miss Trish Robbers, Years 3/4 Mr Dylan Nexhip, Years 5/6 Mr Tom Mangan, Years 7-9 Mrs Vivienne Thomas and Years 10-12 Mrs Louise Mellington.

For campus issues please contact, Mrs Kate Whitford for Prep - Year 6 and Mr Danny Walsh for Years 7-12. For whole college issues please contact me, Mr Stuart Bott. The class teachers and Year Level Coordinators know your children well and can be relied upon to assist with ensuring that children are learning and progressing throughout the year.

**UNIFORM**

On the return to school in 2017 I have been amazed by the support families have provided for the school uniform. On my walks around all campuses over the past week I have been impressed to see a huge majority of the students in our new uniform. Thank you to the parents / guardians for embracing the purchase of the uniform over the summer break. This is greatly appreciated as we are like we are all on the same team, an important aspect of any school.

The school uniform is compulsory and I encourage parents to support the College’s uniform policy which includes hats in Term 1 and 4. If you require assistance in purchasing an item of uniform, please contact the College Office. Please note the second hand uniform shop is open each Friday in the Primary Campus Office from 8:45am - 9:15am.

A reminder that all children are required to wear a hat outside. **NO HAT NO PLAY!!**

**HELLO NIGHT**

Next Thursday, February 6, the P-6 Campus will be opening its doors from 5.30pm – 6:30pm for what is known as ‘Hello’ night. On this night children are invited to bring along their parents and guardians to say ‘hello’ to their teacher/s and be shown around the classroom. This evening is designed to be very relaxed and informal and to foster the important student-teacher partnership. There will be a free BBQ with soft drink for sale for $2. **It is not an occasion for parent/teacher discussions about a child’s progress.**

**SCHOOL CROSSING AND DROPPING STUDENTS OFF**

It is important that when students are arriving and leaving either of our college campuses they use the crossings provided for their safety. Parents / guardians walking their children to and from school are asked to provide a good example by using the crossings as well. When children are being dropped off, parking near a school crossing outside the designated parking bays is dangerous and illegal.

**COLLEGE COUNCIL**

College Councils play a vital role in the educational opportunity and outcomes of all students at school. In essence, the role of College Council is one of setting the long-term future for the school and maintaining oversight (not management) of the school's operation. I would like our parents and staff to consider nominating for College Council in 2017. Nomination forms for College Council will be included in Channels very soon.
IN VOLVEMENT IN OUR SCHOOL
I would like to extend an invitation to all parents, depending on their interests and time available to them, to become involved in college activities. It might be in reading and writing activities; maths activities; canteen service; sports activities; book covering; Parents’ Club activities; participating in excursions or tutoring in programs and the many extra curricular activities that are offered at Kyabram P-12 College. Please see your child’s classroom teacher at the primary campus or the Year Level Coordinator at the secondary campus for further information or to offer assistance.

PUPIL FREE DAY
On Tuesday, 14th February staff in our college will be participating in a professional learning day presented by Sue Larkey focussed on understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder and strategies associated with this. Students will not be required at school on this day.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL
Going to school every day is important for a student’s education. This may seem to be stating something extremely obvious, but absence from school means that learning opportunities are reduced and this can ultimately lead to poorer student achievement. When this happens, the impact will be felt long after the student has left school.

Absence from school clearly effects the absent student, but also impacts on the teacher’s ability to plan and present class work in a sequential and organised way. This can affect the progress of all students in the class, not only those missing, and can make classroom management difficult.

ATTENDANCE FACT: Are you aware that if a child misses 15 days per year from Prep to year 12, then they have missed one complete school year?

BE ON TIME, BE AT SCHOOL, THAT’S THE RULE!

Stuart Bott
College Principal

Mrs Meeking with Prep H/B singing ‘Twinkle Twinkle Little Star’

PE with Mrs Mangan
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