



PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Monday 6th May 2019

Principal's Report – David Russell

Principal's Report

Enrolment Zones

On Wednesday 24th April the Department of Education released the 'find my school app'. This gives people the capacity to enter a school name or a residential address and see the designated neighbourhood enrolment zone for that school or address. The differences to note for the enrolment zone for Parkdale Secondary College are: Dingley is no longer a shared zone with Cheltenham SC and although the zone map does not show the suburbs of Aspendale Gardens and Waterways as in our zone, students who live in these suburbs are guaranteed a place at Parkdale Secondary College, if this is their preferred school. Our website includes this point of clarification when referring to our enrolment zone.

Students who qualify under the above statement are placed first. If there is capacity, we then follow the DET guidelines for enrolling students.

1. Students with a sibling at the same permanent address, who are attending the school at the same time.
2. Where the Regional Director has restricted the enrolment, students who reside nearest the school.
3. Students seeking enrolment on specific curriculum grounds.
4. All other students in order of closeness of their home to the school.
5. In exceptional circumstances, compassionate grounds.

Pedestrian Crossing Lights

There have been ongoing issues with the newly installed lights at the front of the school in Warren Road. As a backup measure the City of Kingston reinstated the red and white poles for the children crossing flags. Unfortunately these have had to be used on a number of occasions. I thank the students for their awareness of the situation and complying with the direction of the crossing supervisor. I also thank parents for their observance and awareness whilst driving through this area as the constant swapping between the lights and the crossing being controlled by the supervisor adds another dimension to an already busy location.

ANZAC Assembly

The whole college attended an ANZAC Day assembly on Tuesday 23rd April which was a moving tribute to those that have made the ultimate sacrifice so we can live in the way in which we do. My thanks to Ms Natalie Baker, Head of Humanities, for her organization of this assembly. There were a number of guests and they have all congratulated us on the assembly and the respect shown by the students to the occasion.

Staffing

Further changes occurred for the start of Term Two. Ms Marg Burrell resigned from the Department effective the first day of Term Two to join the Victoria Police. Ms Carle Rooke has been appointed to replace her. We wish Marg Burrell all the best for her career change.

Canteen

The new managers of the canteen started on Tuesday 30th April. As they have only just commenced there is currently a limited menu. This will expand in the coming weeks. I thank the school community for their patience through Term One whilst the canteen was not operational.

Litter

Having an operational canteen has unfortunately increased the litter in the school grounds after each recess and lunchtime. There are ample bins provided for litter to be placed in them. It is not unusual to see litter left on the ground by students within a couple of metres of a bin. This is not acceptable. We need to be setting an example to

Principal's Report Continued

the community that littering is not acceptable. I ask all students to take that extra couple of seconds to walk to, and put the litter in, the bin. I, and the environment, thank you for doing this.

Graffiti/Willful Damage

It is with regret and disappointment that I raise this matter through the newsletter. There has been a general increase in the occurrence of graffiti, in particular tags, and non accidental damage to school property. Time and money is then directed to remove/repair the damage caused which is diverted from other educational areas. All students need to show respect to the school. Students who engage in these practices will held accountable for their actions and appropriate sanctions will follow.

Sport

Congratulations to the students who competed at the State Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 24th April. The results of the students who were competing for the college were outstanding. Their combined efforts resulted in Parkdale SC finish ninth overall as a school at the state carnival. Please see the report from Ms Leslie later in the newsletter for all the details.

David Russell
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 2 - 2019

May	
7th	Open Night (6.30pm Start)
9th- 10th	AEP Dance Camp
20th -24th	Naplan Week
20th	Year 10 Immunisations
20th	VCAL Expo Night (6.30pm Start)
27th-29th	Year 9 Camp 1 (A-F)
29th-31st	Year 9 Camp 2 (G-L)
June	
3rd-14th	Year 10 & 11 Exams Commence

Junior School Report

Junior School Report

Welcome to Term Two. I hope everyone had a relaxing break. Please note that winter uniform is required from Monday 6th May.

NAPLAN 2019

All Year 7 and 9 parents have received a letter via COMPASS about the upcoming NAPLAN period. NAPLAN Online will occur between 14th – 24th May. Students will undertake all NAPLAN tests online in place of the paper tests. The test schedule will appear on your child's COMPASS timetable.

Students are required to bring their laptop (charged), charger and headphones to each NAPLAN session.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN Online tests. Catch up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days, up to and including Friday 24th May 2019.

Please see the following links for more information:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/default-document-library/naplan-online-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

June Sainsbery
Assistant Principal- Junior School

Senior School Report

Senior School Report

Term Two has begun smoothly in the senior school. The Year 12 formal was held Wednesday 24th April and our students and guests had a wonderful evening. Students dressed to impress and danced the night away with enthusiasm. As expected, behaviour was exceptional, with venue management complimenting us on the conduct of all involved. Thank you to the Year 12 team and Kelly Pondard for the organisation that went into the event and again congratulations our Year 12 students on the positive way in which they represented the college, and themselves, on the night.

Year 10 and 11 examinations begin 3rd June (week 7). A timetable will be distributed to students via Compass next week. It is important for students to begin their preparation for exams early, so they feel confident and prepared when taking them. Early preparation includes summarising class notes, developing subject-specific vocabulary, memorising important quotes, formulas, terms and processes and practicing skills. Study techniques are addressed in Learning Journeys and VCE Program but the key is putting these into practice independently.

Michael Tuck

Assistant Principal- Senior School

School Survey

Student Attitude to School Survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing, and quality instruction, and are conducting a survey to find out what your child thinks of our school.

The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve your child's schooling experience.

Students from Year 7 - 12 at our school will participate in the survey. Your child will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that we are not in any way "testing" your child. Your child has the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Your child will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only. All responses to the survey are kept anonymous in the response file. Personal identification data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of your child's responses is protected at all times.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school over the period **May 2nd to June 5th**. The survey only takes up to 20 minutes to complete and occurs during your child's Tutor group, Learning Journeys or VCE Program.

The survey results will be reported back to the school before the end of Term Two. All survey data that is made available in reports are for groups of students only so that no individual student can be identified.

If you would like more information, please

visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/performsurveyat.aspx>

Assistant Principal

Melissa Treverton

Chillin' with the Chap – The Art of Communication

With the madness of Parent/Teacher Interviews over recent weeks, I doubt there has been any parent (or student?) who has not stressed about the incredibly small 5 minute time slots!

How can the teacher tell me how my son/daughter is going if they only have 5 minutes?

What if time goes over, will I miss out if I'm next?

What on earth can someone tell me in 5 mins?

How can I discuss my son/daughter in 5 mins? So many questions?

It got me thinking about the art of communication. This is a regular topic that comes up when I'm speaking with students. "I can't tell mum/dad that!", "He won't listen", "She's too busy..."

Sometimes our only communication happens with our loved ones when we are needing to get across our point of view, maybe it's in reaction/retaliation to something someone's said, when we are angry or feel like we are being wronged or 'not heard', or when we have little time. I am the first to admit that I have taken a long time to learn how to communicate better with people who are close to me. My natural tendency is to retreat and shut down, when I feel angry or not heard.

One of the things I am learning is that good communication takes time and care. It involves stopping, slowing down, cooling down and talking when both parties are calm. You might like to invite the other person to get together at a certain time giving them time to think about what it might be you want to talk about. Sometimes finding a neutral space (this might be a family room or kitchen in your home or walking the dog, or a café) can be helpful to better communicate as no one feels as though their space is invaded. Planning is also helpful, thinking about how to adequately communicate ones needs in a calm manner, thinking about how the other person might react or answer, and having a thought out response.

Making time and space for good communication with each other in our busy lives is really important for building strong bonds, parents to children, and adults to adults.

I still think 5 mins is too short to communicate what we want to each other (!) but unfortunately that's all we've got, so we had better learn to get to the point and move on...!

Susan Parkin
Chaplain

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

Are you interested in the wellbeing of your children? Do you enjoy meeting with others and being part of a dynamic team? Do you have skills in fundraising or event running? Are you a parent looking for a way to give back to the community through your school environment?

The Chaplaincy Support Committee are looking for interested parents or friends of the school, to be involved with their fundraising and support of the Chaplain. If this sounds like you, then please contact Susan parkin.susan.e@edumail.vic.gov.au for more info.

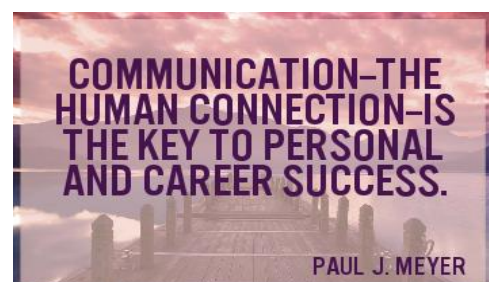
Thank you, Susan Parkin (Chaplain)

CommYOUnication

■ **Communication Skills:**

■ **Directly Relates to 85% of One's Success In Life**

■ **And it's a SKILL – It's meant to be practiced.**



QuotePixel.com

Sue Parkin
Chaplin

READING PROGRAM AT PSC – JUST RIGHT BOOKS

In previous newsletters we have written about the weekly reading program that runs for Years 7 and 8. In this piece we would like to outline the aims of the reading program and how we work with our students to improve their skill with reading. Our central aim is to foster in our students a strong, independent reading habit and support improved reading comprehension through that habit. Reading is the one underpinning skill required in all learning areas so its importance is paramount.

To begin the reading program for Year 7s we run an induction that introduces them to the idea of 'just right' books. Students are more likely to experience pleasure with reading, and so success, when they are reading books that are a perfect fit for them; books that reflect their interests, needs and ability with reading.

We show the students how to determine whether a book is just right by:

- Reading the blurb
- Considering the cover
- Identifying the genre
- Gauging the language within the book as regards its accessibility
- Considering the physical features of the book such as length, font, paper colour and the presence or not of illustrations

We get the students to 'test drive' the book and encourage them to give it a go before making that decision about whether the book is just right. We know it may take a few attempts before a student finds a just right book and we make it clear that it is ok to not finish a book that isn't working for them. We have a reading list of annotated books on the library webpage that we have found highly successful with students at Year 7. We have them start with that reading list to make their first choice of a book from this library.

Our job as teacher-librarians is to get a just right book into every students' hands. We believe our reading program is having success in this regards.

Across the year we will contribute articles to the newsletter that explain the 'mechanics' of our reading program so that we are creating a common understanding of how we are working with our students to develop their capacity as readers.

School Sports Victoria- State Swimming Championships

SCHOOL SPORTS VICTORIA - STATE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 24th April, Nine students proudly represented Parkdale Secondary College at the State Swimming Championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. All swimmers achieved exceptional results on the day, contributing towards Parkdale SC placing 9th out of all representative schools in the State!

We were on the edge of our seats when our 12-14 Years Medley Relay team (represented by Sienna Shepherd, Louanna Daniels, Paige Holt and Meg Webster) finished 2nd, narrowly beaten by Maribyrnong College by 0.009 seconds! However, the girls were not to be outdone, being awarded State Champions in the 14 Years Freestyle Relay event (represented by Sienna Shepherd, Louanna Daniels, Paige Holt and Liv McKie) and finishing within 2 seconds of the record and 2.5 seconds ahead of Maribyrnong College!

Congratulations to Sienna Shepherd who achieved phenomenal results in the Five individual events she competed in, finishing 1st in the 12-15 Years 200m Freestyle, 14 Years 50m Freestyle and the 12-15 Years 200m Individual Medley. Sienna finished 2nd in the 14 Years 50m Butterfly and the 12-20 Years 400m Freestyle.

Other amazing results from the day include:

Jacqueline Moore – 5th 18-20 Years 50m Breaststroke
Jorja Palazzolo – 7th 16 Years 50m Butterfly and 16-20 Years 100m Freestyle
Lachlan Shepherd – 3rd 16 Years 50m Butterfly
Meg Webster – 9th 17 Years 50m Butterfly

(Meg swam up Three age groups to compete in this event!)

Louanna Daniels – 5th 12-15 Years 100m Freestyle

Special mention must go to Summer Bailey for her outstanding team spirit and selfless attitude. She was a member of the winning 12-14 Years Medley Relay team at the SMR level of competition back in March, when she filled in for Meg Webster who was unable to compete. Summer willingly gave up her spot on the relay team to Meg at the State competition, cheering and supporting the girls as the emergency swimmer for this team.

What a fantastic result from all of our incredible swimmers who exemplified sportsmanship, humility, perseverance and team work, attributes all students at Parkdale Secondary College aspire towards. Well done, the entire college community are so proud of your achievements!

School Sports Victoria- State Swimming Championships Continued



Vanessa Leslie
Carnivals Coordinator

Parents Association

PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Hello everyone,
Welcome back to Term Two! Just a few things to update you with

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th May at 7.00pm in the College Staff Room. It's very relaxed and new faces are always welcome. If you haven't yet become a member and would like to, forms are available at the school office, on the website or at our next meeting.

The Federal Election has been announced for Saturday 18th May and we will be running our BBQ from 7.30am at the school. Please consider helping out for an hour or so if you can – we'll need all hands on deck to make it a success. We have lots of fun and it will mean we're able to fund a project in the school which will be great. If you can help.... please email me at nmoffat@optusnet.com.au 'yes I can help with BBQ' with your availability between 7.30 and 3.30, full name and mobile number.

We are registered for Earn & Learn! The Woolworths sticker collecting will begin soon – watch out for a collection box near you..

UNIFORM SHOP

The College is now using the online service Sustainable School Shop to enable parents to buy and sell second hand uniform items.

Sustainable School Shop has been provided with the College's uniform list to help families buy/sell the correct items. Once you are registered, you'll start to receive emails detailing current available stock.

Click here to register and start buying or selling! www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

Here is our current stock list..

www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/stocktake/parkdale-secondary-college

Please see the Introduction Letter and User Guide for further information and guidance.
http://www.parkdalesc.vic.edu.au/index.php?option=com_zoo&view=item&layout=item&Itemid=122

Meeting dates for your diary:

May 15th June 12th
August 14th September 11th
October 16th November 13th
December 4th – Christmas breakup

Cheers,

Nicole Moffat

nmoffat@optusnet.com.au

PA President