



# PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## Principal's Report – David Russell

As you would be aware, the Victorian Government has made some significant announcements in relation to arrangements for schools in Victoria for Term Three.

Based on advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Victorian Government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire have had specific arrangements in place for Week One of Term Three. Schools will now move to remote and flexible learning for students from Year 7 to 10 from the start of Week Two.

It is very important to note that the advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer is that schools can continue to operate. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has also provided advice about the health measures that should be taken by staff and students, and we will be following these.

The purpose of these changed arrangements is to reduce the number of students – and their parents and guardians – moving across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

It is, however, also important that face-to-face teaching be maintained for some students. This includes students in Years 11 and 12 (and Year 10 students who have VCE studies or VCAL strands in their learning program) because of the importance of enabling all students to continue or complete their senior secondary certificate, either VCE or VCAL.

We are providing onsite supervision to support families of students in Year 7-10 where parents and carers cannot work from home, and others who need the support that on-site provision enables.

To provide further assurance, our school, along with all other government schools in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire, is conducting temperature checks of all students at the start of the day. If your child does have a temperature, you will be asked to collect them from school.

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July, our school will be moving to remote and flexible learning. This will be for all students apart from the following:

- years 11 and 12 students and Year 10 students for their VCE or VCAL programs
- students enrolled in specialist schools.

You will have received Compass Newsfeeds with information for this transition to remote and flexible learning.

The Department has a range of options for you to continue to support your students in their learning, available at the Learning from Home website [education.vic.gov.au/homelearning](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/homelearning).

The latest information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and schools is on the Department of Education and Training website: [education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

And, finally, a reminder that if you, your child, or a family member develops symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste, you should get tested at a coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facility and stay home.

## Principal's Report Continued

This is vitally important to keeping our school community safe.

If you would like health information from the Department of Health and Human Services, you can visit [dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](https://dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

### FACE MASKS

As announced on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July face masks will be compulsory when out in public areas from 11.59pm Wednesday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. This includes school. All students will be required to wear a face mask when travelling to school, at school and from school. At the time of writing I am still waiting for official guidance from the DET on what this looks like when students are at school and the implications for teachers in the classroom. As always I will continue to communicate with you as soon as we receive further information.

**David Russell**  
Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES - TERM 3 - 2020

July 2020	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Reports available from 4pm

## Junior School Report

Welcome to Term Three. With constantly changing COVID-19 challenges, we are embarking on another round of remote learning for our Junior students. The remote learning platforms used previously will continue, but there will be a greater emphasis on the use of Microsoft Teams. Please ensure you have familiarized yourself and your child with the **remote learning protocols** that were sent out on Thursday last week from Mr Tuck.

### Year 7 Camp

With the return to remote learning from this week, we are unable to proceed with our plans to attend camp this term. This is disappointing, as we strongly believe that camp offers students the opportunity to experience many new activities and build positive relationships with peers and staff. Fortunately, we have been able to secure dates for March 2021 and look forward to our Year 7s attending camp at the beginning of Year 8, albeit later than originally planned.

### Course Counselling

This term students in Year 9 will begin the process of making decisions about their Year 10 program for 2021. Students need to ensure that they check their emails and newsfeed items regularly so that they are well informed about what is happening and when.

Thanks for your ongoing support and please touch base with your Year Level team if you have any concerns.

**June Sainsbery**  
Assistant Principal- Junior School & Wellbeing

## Senior School Report

Firstly, thank you to all students and parents for your patience, understanding and support during this time. The processes we have put in place appear to be effective and students must be congratulated for their cooperation, particularly with the temperature checks in the morning. We have seen a significant improvement in social distancing amongst students, however, this continues to be our biggest concern. With only VCE and VCAL students on site, we have a significant amount of space for students to spread out across the school. Please have a discussion with your child about how they are able to manage social distancing while at school.

### 2021 Course Counselling

Course counselling will continue as planned to ensure we are able to confirm student courses and plan in a timely manner. All information will be shared via Compass over the coming days. Year 11 moving into year 12 course counselling, will take place Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Interviews will be for students only and the process will be paperless this year, with a Microsoft Form being required to be completed by students prior to counselling occurring.

**Michael Tuck**

**Assistant Principal- Senior School**

## School Reports

### Semester 1 Reports

**Semester One reports will be available from 4pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**Reporting Information sent to parents via June Newsletter.**

#### **TEMPORARY REPORTING CHANGES FOR TERM 2 ONLY**

Continuous reporting (CATs, VCE Areas of Study & VCAL Assessment Tasks), completed predominately during remote learning, will not include individual assessment of the 5Ps - Participation, Preparation, Probity, Punctuality & Purpose. Instead teachers will include in their feedback, a written comment on how your child engaged with remote learning.

Semester One exams for Year 10 & VCE Unit 1 students have been cancelled, therefore there will be no reporting of exam scores or for Unit 1 students the Parkdale Study Score.

End of Semester One reports will be uploaded to Compass on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July. This date has been extended to allow finalisation of assessment once all students returned to school for Term Two.

#### **CONTINUOUS REPORTING CHANGES - ONGOING**

The continuous reporting model ensures students and parents receive valuable feedback from teachers within three weeks of the end of each assessment task. Students are then able to reflect on their learning and make improvements before the next assessment task. This year we have made the following amendments to how achievement and learning behaviours are reported. These changes have come about as a result of feedback from students, teachers and parents.

#### **Learning Behaviours (5PS – Participation, Preparation, Probity, Punctuality & Purpose)**

Teachers will now assess your child's learning behaviours based on the following scale:

- Meets expectation
- Partially meets expectation
- Does not meet expectation
- Not Assessed

#### **Teacher Feedback**

Teachers will provide one written comment on your child's achievement and areas for improvement.

### **YEAR 7-10 Achievement level for CATs**

Teachers will no longer use the PSC 1-7 grading range, but will instead use a written descriptor to communicate your child's level of achievement.

- Well above the expected achievement standard
- Above the expected achievement standard
- At the higher end of the expected achievement standard
- At the expected achievement standard
- At the lower end of the expected achievement standard
- Below the expected achievement standard
- Well below the expected achievement standard

### **VCE ASSESSMENT**

Teachers will report student achievement for each VCE Area of Study in their subject. This includes:

- Satisfactory/Non satisfactory grade for each Area of Study
- Numerical score for each Outcome in the Area of Study

### **VCAL ASSESSMENT**

There are no modifications to continuous reporting for VCAL

### **END OF SEMESTER REPORTING CHANGES- ONGOING**

**Year 7-10 students will receive a report communicating:**

- Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standard for each subject and the general capabilities
- Achievement level for each subject based CAT

**VCE students will receive a report communicating:**

- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for VCE Unit
- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for each Area of Study

**VCAL students will receive a report communicating:**

- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for VCAL Unit
- Satisfactory/Non-satisfactory for each VCAL Assessment Task

Please note, Teacher written feedback and Learning behaviours will no longer be included in the Semester report. Parents & Carers are reminded they should be accessing this feedback via Compass Learning Tasks throughout the semester. The end of semester report is provided as a summary of achievement only.

### **PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Term 2 Parent/Teacher interviews have been postponed until later in the year. We are awaiting further directives from the Victorian Government before we are able to make a decision regarding the timing and format of interviews.

Parents will be notified as soon as a decision has been made.

Please contact your child's teacher via email if you have any immediate concerns regarding their progress.

**Melissa Treverton**  
**Assistant Principal**

### **CANTEEN DELAYED OPENING DUE TO COVID19**

It is with extreme regret that Chalkboard Catering is unable to open due to Covid19 related issues. We look forward to things improving and the canteen being able to open in the future.

### **BOB STEWART**

I would like to inform you of Bob Stewarts (the uniform shop) current opening hours. Due to stage 3 restrictions we are now opening the following days/hours:

**Monday - Thursday 10:00AM - 4:00PM          Saturday          9:00AM - 1:00PM**

We also offer a click and collect service or postage for a flat rate of \$14.95.

**Nicole Kingsbury  
Business Manager**

## Welcome To The Library At Parkdale Secondary College

### **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

Like everyone we were dismayed at the return to remote learning but know it is being done for the best possible reasons. We want to continue to support our students to read and encourage them to select a just right book .Reading sessions will continue as part of their weekly timetable. The library has an extensive collection of eBooks that are available for loan through the library page. Students have been shown how to access the eBook collection. We will continue to build this collection alongside our print collection so that they have access to a wide range of books.

### **READING BLOGS**

Whilst students may be away from school we can use technology to stay connected and continue learning. Once a fortnight, in the timetabled reading session, students will start the lesson by writing a comment on their class reading blog. The link to the blog site is located on the library web page.

Each of our blogs covers an aspect of the story such as plot, setting, characters, conflict and ideas. We explain to students how to write a comment on one of these aspects by modelling a blog comment. We then decode the paragraph and explain what each of the sentences in the paragraph is doing to explore the topic. The librarians will moderate each of the comments and will publish those we feel demonstrate good writing. Continuing to read during this time provides a great stress relief for everyone. It is an opportunity to be in another space and to encounter different people and places whilst we are restricted in what we can do. We look forward to seeing our junior students return to school and hope everyone stays well.

### **FREE EBOOKS FOR OLDER READERS**

Apart from our Library's eBook collection there are other places where you can find a wealth of free e-books (yes, free e-books!).

- **Google eBookstore**
- **Project Gutenberg**
- **Open Library**
- **Internet Archive**
- **BookBoon**
- **ManyBooks.net**
- **Free eBooks**
- **LibriVox**

Happy Reading  
**Pauline White and Suzanne Flavin (Librarians)**

Dear Parents/Carers,

As our Year 7-10 students return to a remote learning environment again next week, The Wellbeing Team and I wanted to provide you with an update about the continued supports that are available to you and your family.

Individual wellbeing support will continue be available to all students throughout remote learning via Microsoft Teams. At this stage, we are again offering an audio only telehealth service that can be scheduled in during regular class time.

Students will also be able to access the 2020 Student Wellbeing Page. This group page will be updated daily with helpful information, resources and links in an effort to provide students additional wellbeing support. All students are able to access this page via Microsoft Teams and a vast majority already joined during the first round of remote learning. If your child would like to access this page but are unsure of how to do so, please feel free to send me an email and I will be able to assist you.

As students use of technology increases during remote learning, it is a great time to improve your knowledge base in the area of online safety. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner provides [free webinars](#) and a vast amount of information about how to support your children navigating the online world. A tip sheet for young people discussing online safety is included at the end of this newsletter.

If I could make one recommendation, I would strongly suggest that you have a look at the information eSafety has provided about [Tellonym](#). Tellonym is a relatively new app that allows users to send messages to strangers without revealing their identity. This app has come to our attention increasingly over the previous few months. I would not suggest discussing the app with your child if they are unaware of it, however it is worth being prepared if you know or notice that this is an app your child is currently using.

Lastly, please feel free to contact the Wellbeing Team and I during remote learning if you have any other questions or concerns. I would also encourage you to contact the external support services listed at the end of this newsletter. I hope you all stay safe and well!

Sincerely,

**Jake and The Wellbeing Team**



# 24/7 Mental Health Services

## Beyond Blue

*Anyone feeling anxious or depressed*

 [beyondblue.org.au](https://beyondblue.org.au)

 1300 22 4636

## Kids Helpline

*Counselling for young people aged 5 to 25*

 [kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au)

 1800 55 1800

## MensLine Australia

*Men with emotional or relationship concerns*

 [mensline.org.au](https://mensline.org.au)

 1300 78 99 78

## Open Arms

*Veterans and families counselling*

 [openarms.gov.au](https://openarms.gov.au)

 1800 011 046

## Lifeline

*Anyone having a personal crisis*

 [lifeline.org.au](https://lifeline.org.au)

 13 11 14

## Suicide Call Back Service

*Anyone thinking about suicide*

 [suicidecallbackservice.org.au](https://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

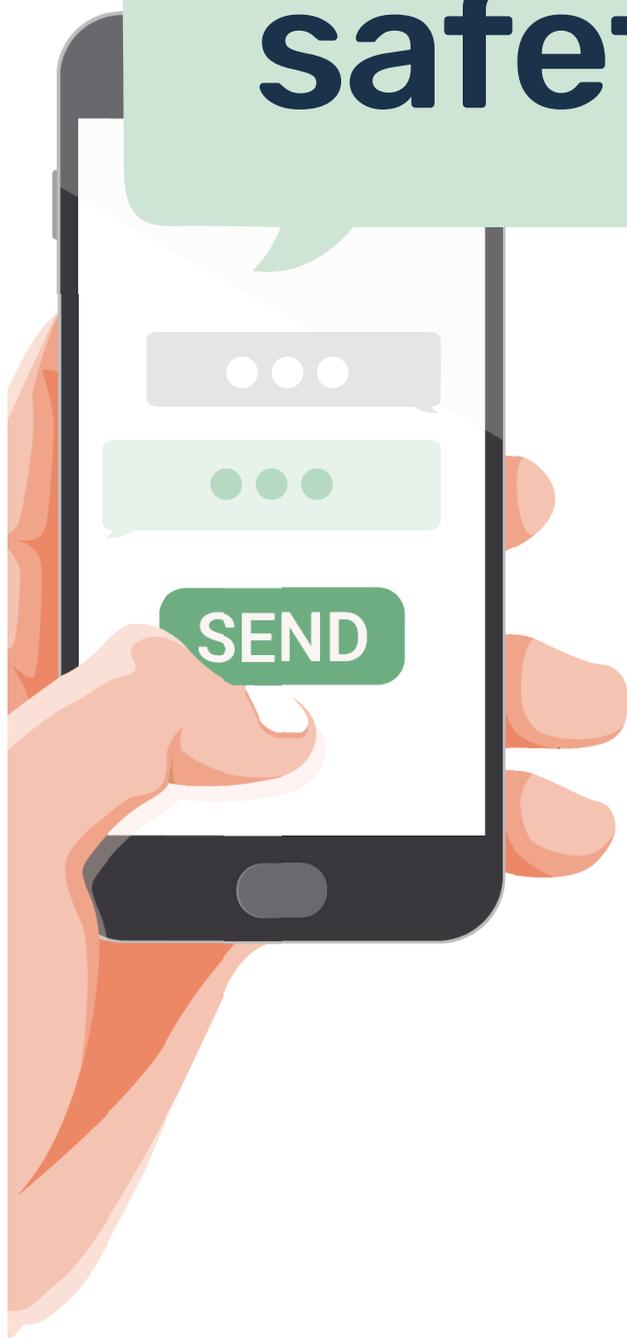
 1300 659 467



**Is it an emergency?**

If you or someone you know is at immediate risk of harm, call **triple zero (000)**

# Top 5 online safety tips



- 1 Think of others' feelings** before you post, like or share content.
- 2 Ask for permission** before you share a photo or video with someone else in it. Respectful online relationships start with consent.
- 3 Be an upstander** Speak up if you see someone cyberbullying or sharing nudes in a group chat – let them know that's not okay. Report and delete it.
- 4 Use privacy and screen time** settings to take control of your digital life and its impact on your mental health.
- 5 Ask for help** Cyberbullying and sharing intimate images without consent can be distressing, but eSafety can help remove them.