Pyramid Hill College
Is a Child Safe School

23rd August, 2016

Olympics at Pyramid Hill College

Last Friday we didn’t need to watch the Olympics on the television - here at the College, the Prep to Year 6 students, keenly participated in their very own Pyramid Hill College Olympics for a chance to stand on the podium and receive medals.

The students were in teams representing ten countries and rotated around a variety of activities, organised by the Year 9/10 students and Mr Muscatello, to gain points for their team. It was great to see everyone participating with enthusiasm, encouraging one another and trying their best with great team spirit.

But there could only be one winner, and this was the country of Great Britain, team members, Imogen, Carolyn, James, Ellesha and Alina.

Winners are grinners

Final Payment for Tasmanian Trip due THIS Friday, 26th August

Book Parade
On Tuesday, 30 August
11.35 - 12.15

Book Week
Tuesday, 30th August

9.30
Welcome by School Captains

9.35 - 10.45
Literacy Activities - Year P-8 & St. Pat’s

10.45 - 11.15
"Wombat Stew" activities

11.15-11.35
Recess

11.35 12.15
Street Parade (Pre-schoolers to join in)

12.15 - 12.30
Reading Buddies

12.30 - 1.00
Sharing book week entries incl Pre-school books

Presentation of Awards
Year 7-10 Learning Neighbourhood

Tassie Trip Information Session for Students and Parents

We will be hosting an information and Q & A session for this trip on Wednesday, 24th August at 5 pm for parents and students. With only 2 weeks (and a few days) to go it is time to get all the information sorted. Medical forms for this trip will be distributed at this meeting. Any questions prior to the information session can be directed to Mrs Talbot or Mr McCann.

VCE Orientation activities

Tomorrow, all of our year 10 students will be travelling by bus to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort Schools and meet some of the staff and students in each school and undertake an in depth tour of the campuses. Boort have very graciously offered to provide lunch for our students.

Cohuna VCE Information Night - Wednesday, 24th August

Tomorrow night - students have received this information from Cohuna.

Fiesta Cooking Meeting 7.00pm on Wednesday 31st August
(to coincide with picking up students from Matilda trip at approx. 7.30-8.00pm)

Mrs Talbot would like to meet with anyone who is interested in helping prepare food for the Fiesta. There are many different jobs from preparing Filipino dishes/sweets or preparing spring rolls, cheesecakes and other sweets. On the day we hope to have three teams working for the different courses: afternoon savouries; main course and sweets, which should allow everyone to enjoy the fiesta more.

If you are able to help in any way, please feel free to come along to the meeting in the staffroom, or give your name to June in the office and we can allocate jobs/teams for the day.

Dates for your diary

24th August - PHC year 10 class to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort schools
24th August - 5.00pm Tasmania Camp information Session
25th August - MIPS with Sue Clay
25th August - Year 7 & 8 Trip to La Trobe University in Bendigo doing Agronomy and Food Science workshops.
26th August - Final payments for Tassie Trip due
31st August - ‘Matilda’ Melbourne Trip
- Year 10 Ballarat Excursion
12-16th September - Tasmania Trip

Mrs L Talbot
7-10 Neighbourhood Leader

Student of the Week

Cecily Farrar - for a great effort in class
Zac Manton - for consistent accuracy in her spelling words this term
Riley Fergusson - for an excellent attitude in the classroom and for working hard with his writing.
Budvin Delpitiya - for settling into Pyramid Hill College so nicely.
Hayley King, Tayah Ellis and Olivia King - for helping with the set up of Breakfast Club

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Congratulations to Mia Farrar, who has completed the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Matilda

Only a week to go until we head to Melbourne for “Matilda”. Please return permission forms by next Monday.

Book Parade

Tuesday, 30th August and the theme is “Australia - Story Country”, with dress up theme being a character from an Australian book, Illustrator or Author.

Thank you

Thank you to Kaitlin, a Student teacher who has been helping in the Prep/1 room last week. We hope you enjoyed your time in our school and you learnt a great deal with Mrs Pascoe and the Prep/1 students’ help.

Year 2/3/4 Homework

Due to a change to the Year 2/3/4 timetable, their Homework is now due on Fridays.

Dance

Most days in tap time the Years Prep to 8 have been learning a dance to perform at the Fiesta in October. The Year 9/10 have been teaching each group, except for the Year 2/3/4, who are being taught by Jorja, Jordann, Olivia and Fionne from Year 8 - thank you to all these girls for their expertise.

Parent Help Needed

WANTED parents to listen to students read in the Prep to 4 area please. A Working with Children Check is required which can be obtained by filling in a form at a Post Office stating that you are a volunteer - no charge. Unfortunately, you will need to go to a post office in a larger town.

Fiesta Cooking Meeting 7.00pm on Wednesday 31st August
(to coincide with picking up students from Matilda trip at approx. 7.30-8.00pm)

Mrs Talbot would like to meet with anyone who is interested in helping prepare food for the Fiesta. There are many different jobs from preparing Filipino dishes/sweets or preparing spring rolls, cheesecakes and other sweets. On the day we hope to have three teams working for the different courses: afternoon savouries; main course and sweets, which should allow everyone to enjoy the fiesta more.

If you are able to help in any way, please feel free to come along to the meeting in the staffroom, or give your name to June in the office and we can allocate jobs/teams for the day.

Dates for your diary

24th August - PHC year 10 class to visit Cohuna, Kerang and Boort schools
24th August - 5.00pm Tasmania Camp information Session
25th August - MIPS with Sue Clay
25th August - Year 7 & 8 Trip to La Trobe University in Bendigo doing Agronomy and Food Science workshops.
26th August - Final payments for Tassie Trip due
31st August - ‘Matilda’ Melbourne Trip
- Year 10 Ballarat Excursion
12-16th September - Tasmania Trip

Mrs L Talbot
7-10 Neighbourhood Leader

Gold Coin Donation to raise funds for MND (Motor Neuron Disease) - Pie/Sausage Roll Lunch
More details next week
**What’s On**

**This Week**

- **Tomorrow Wednesday, 24th August**
  Year 10 students visiting Boort, Cohuna, Kerang schools
- **Tassie Trip** - Information Session for parents and students - 5 pm at the College
- **Thursday, 25th August**
  Year 7/8 students visiting LaTrobe University in Bendigo
- **Friday, 26th August**
  final payment due for Tassie Trip

**Next Week - Book Week**

- **Book Fair in the Library**
  come and buy some Christmas gifts
- **Tuesday, 30th August**
  Book Parade - Australian story character
- **Wednesday, 31st August**
  “Matilda” in Melbourne
  Year 10 students visit to Ballarat
- **Thursday, 1st September**
  Father’s Day Stall - Students to bring money to buy a gift

---

**Breakfast Club**

- Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
- 8.30 in the BER
- All welcome

---

**Nude Food Day** - Tuesday, 6th September

So please pack ‘nude’ food - for ideas and recipes see


---

**Nude Food**

- Fruit- apples, bananas
- Vegetables- carrot & celery sticks
- Foods in reusable containers
- Drinks in reusable bottles

---

**Not Nude Food**

- Pre packaged snacks & foods- chips, shapes, snack cheese/biscuits
- Prima, Pop Tops and plastic water bottles
**Principal's News**

**Welcome**
Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming the Delpitiya family into our Pyramid Hill community. We are delighted to have Budvin (Year 6) and Chenul (Year 3) as our new students and we look forward to a long and happy association with the Delpitiya family.

**Australian Citizenship**
This year has been an exciting year for some of our students and their families as they have been granted their Australian Citizenship. Congratulations to Gad and Dwight Dabu and family who received their Australian Citizenship last term and today Kevan Coronacion and his family received their Australian Citizenship at a ceremony held in Wedderburn. Congratulations to both the Dabu and Coronacion families on this amazing achievement and we are very pleased to officially have you as Australian citizens.

**Child Safe Standards**
In response to the report on the Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations, released in May 2014, the government published *The Betrayal of Trust* report in November 2014. Within this report were a raft of recommendations – many of which we are now implementing here at Pyramid Hill College via the new Child Safe Standards. These new requirements came into effect on August 1 2016, however many of the processes and protocols to keep all children safe, have been in place for many years.

At the heart of the recommendations, and also a view firmly held by all here at the College, is a zero tolerance of child abuse. We will continue to build on our good practices and implement further measures which are designed to protect all children from abuse.

You will notice that on the heading of our Newsletter, we now have the statement, “Pyramid Hill College is a Child Safe School”. This statement shows our commitment to the new Child Safe Standards and you will see it more and more on our policies, notices and in other areas of our school’s practice.

Attached to today’s newsletter is a parent information sheet regarding the Child Safe Standards. Please read this document and if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call.

*Fiona Moon, Principal*

---

**Father's Day Breakfast**

Dad’s, Grandpa’s, Pops and special Friends are invited to Pyramid Hill College, For the Annual Father’s Day breakfast On Friday 9th September, Commencing at 8.15 am.

**This is also our Footy Colours Day**
So please wear your Footy Colours - Gold Coin Donation

---

**Year 7/8 Netball**

Last Wednesday the majority of Year 7/8 girls travelled to Bendigo to compete in the Victorian Netball Championships. There were six teams in the girls’ age group and we played each of them twice. It was good to see the girls improve a lot over the course of the day and develop their teamwork and voice skills. In the first lot of games, the girls had one win against St Arnaud, but we’re very quiet and a lot shorter than most other teams. In the second lot of games against the same teams, the girls won two games out of five, against St Arnaud and Wedderburn.

Thanks to Fionne, who has never played netball, but was able to step up to play when there weren’t enough players. Thanks to Wendy for coming along to the day to support the girls, she also proved to be very useful when working out the positions on the court. Thanks to our scorers and ‘co-coaches’ who helped with the little jobs of the day. A special thank you to SEDA student, Georgia Morgan, for volunteering as an umpire for the day and Kim Lister for helping organise uniforms and bibs. But most of all, thanks to Mr Muscatello for giving up his lunch times to train the team and for coaching the girls on the day, it was much appreciated.
SAFETY AT YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL

Children have the right to be safe and protected, including at school. It is important that you feel confident that your child is safe and well in the care of their school.

Schools are responsible for keeping children safe. Schools have to meet legal requirements for the care, safety and welfare of students. From 1 August 2016, they also need to meet child safe standards to achieve a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

This information sheet provides information for parents about the child safe standards and how your school must protect children from child abuse.

What information should your school provide to you?

From 1 August 2016, schools must inform the school community about the following:

- strategies to embed a culture of child safety at the school, and roles and responsibilities within the school for achieving these strategies
- the school’s child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety.

You can ask to see these things. You could also ask to see the school’s:

- code of conduct outlining clear expectations for appropriate behaviour by school staff with children (this must be publicly available)
- strategies to promote child empowerment and participation, e.g. delivering appropriate education about standards of behaviour for students attending the school, healthy and respectful relationships (including sexuality), resilience and child abuse awareness and prevention
- procedures for reporting suspected child abuse (this must be publicly available).

If you believe the school could take a stronger approach to child safety, whether for all children or to meet your child’s specific needs, speak to the principal or someone in a leadership role at the school.

If you wish to make a formal complaint that the school is not meeting the child safe standards, you will first need to make a complaint directly to the school. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of your complaint to the school, you can make a formal complaint. More information about making a complaint is available at www.vmqa.vic.gov.au.

Victoria’s child safe standards

In 2013, the Victorian Parliament held an Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations, resulting in the Betrayal of Trust Report.

The report found that more could be done to strengthen existing approaches to child safety. In response, the Victorian Government is phasing in child safe standards for organisations that work with children, including schools.
What are the standards?
The child safe standards require schools to consider all aspects of child safety and put measures in place to protect children from all forms of abuse, including:

- sexual or grooming offences
- physical violence
- serious emotional or psychological harm
- serious neglect.

Below are the seven child safe standards. The Minister for Education has set out in Ministerial Order No. 870 what specific actions schools need to take to meet the child safe standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Number</th>
<th>What is required in each school?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>A child safety policy or statement of commitment to child safety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>A child safety code of conduct.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>School staff selection, supervision and management practices for a child-safe environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Strategies to promote child empowerment and participation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All standards School governing authorities must take account the diversity of all children, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and children who are vulnerable (schools only).