PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the 2016 academic year. Our start to the year has been very positive. This year we welcome 95 Year 7 students and nine new teachers to the College.

Our core purpose is “to provide all students with learning opportunities that are designed to develop socially responsible citizens and build pathways to their futures.” This can only be achieved when we have teachers, parents and students working together. We are very keen to set a strong learning culture from the beginning of the year.

VCE OUTCOMES

I would like to publicly acknowledge the results achieved by last year’s Year 12 students. The average study score achieved by this particular group was an improvement on the previous year and represents the highest it has been since 2004.

It was pleasing to see that, of those students who received offers through VTAC, 75% of those were University offers. It is always our objective to ensure students leave the College prepared to pursue the next phase of their life, in their preferred pathway. Some of the courses our students were accepted into included Arts, Business, Architectural Design, Information Technology, Education, Science and Engineering.

We wish all of our alumni the very best, as they move on to the next phase of their lives.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.

Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. They can be obtained by parents/guardians for individual students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

School Council Elections are scheduled to occur this term. I am now calling for nominations for parent representatives of the School Council of Pakenham Secondary College. The School Council provides important support and direction to the College. I urge you to consider being part of this important group. Nomination forms can be collected from Jackie Stewart at the front office and need to be returned by 4pm on Monday February 22, 2016. Further information is included with the newsletter.
Principal’s Report continued…

HOAX PHONE CALLS TO VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

Parents will be aware that a number of schools have been forced to evacuate due to the recent spate of hoax threatening phone calls that have been made to Victorian schools in the last few days.

At the time of writing this note, our school has not received such a call, but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this and we practise it throughout the year. The College conducted an evacuation drill on Thursday 4th February.

Please be assured that the safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

Ray Squires
Principal

School Sport

Welcome to school sport for 2016!

We begin undoubtedly the busiest sporting term of the year – in the next six weeks we will play host to the House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, along with Interschool Cricket and Volleyball for students from Years 7-12, Aerobics training and the Division Swimming Carnival against the schools from the Casey North District.

Coming Up:
Monday February 22nd  House Swimming Carnival at Pakenham Outdoor Pool.
Tuesday February 29th  Senior Volleyball at Dandenong Volleyball Centre.
Wednesday March 9th  Division Swimming Carnival at Doveton Pool in the Park.
Thursday March 17th  Yr 8 Cricket and Volleyball.
Tuesday March 22nd  Yr 7 Cricket and Volleyball.
Thursday March 24th  House Athletics Carnival at Toomuc Reserve.
Aerobics Training  Every Tuesday and Thursday 3:30pm-4:30pm in the Gym.

Swimming and Athletics Carnivals
Both of the carnivals are compulsory school days and allow students to compete in a host of different swimming and athletic sports, such as varied competitive swimming strokes, sprinting, running, shot put, javelin, discus, etc. Students are encouraged to dress up in their House colours and support their fellow competitors! Sign up will be held at school during Health and P.E. classes for Years 7-10, or through sign up sheets in the senior school area for Years 11 and 12. Should a student be absent during sign up, they will need to speak to their Health/P.E teacher.

Aerobics
Any students interested in joining the Pakenham Secondary College Aerobics Team should see Miss Drury in the Gym office at recess or lunchtime before February 19th to collect forms and sign up.

Looking forward to an excellent year!

Kind regards,

Caera Drury
Sports Coordinator.
Messages from the Office

Diary Dates

March
- Monday 7th: Close of nominations for School Council

Excursions/Incursions

February
- Tuesday 16th: Year 12 Aspiration Day at Cardinia Cultural Centre
- Monday 22nd: College House Swimming Carnival – All students
- Wednesday 24th: Year 11 & 10.7 to “The Dressmaker”
- Thursday 25th: School Photos

March
- Tuesday 1st: Senior VCAL to St Kilda
- Friday 4th: Year 12 Physics class to Luna Park
- Wed 9th – Fri 11th: Year 7 Camp
- Tuesday 15th: Intermediate VCAL to Yarraville
- Tuesday 15th: Years 10, 11 & 12 Studio Arts to Top Arts Exhibition, Melbourne
- Friday 18th: Chess Tournament
- Thursday 24th: College House Athletic Carnival - All students

Uniform Shop Hours

The uniform shop is open on Tuesdays between 1pm and 4.30pm and Saturdays between 9am and 12pm during school terms only. The shop is located behind the gym (via Cunningham Drive) and the Manager can be contacted on 5940 2912.

Personal items

If students bring bikes, scooters or any personal items, including mobile phones and iPods to school, it is at the owner’s risk. The College accepts no responsibility for any lost or stolen items. The College will lock the bike shed each day, but cannot guarantee complete security; we recommend students bring their own locks to secure bikes and scooters.

Breakfast Club

All students are welcome to come to Breakfast Club. Toast and milk/milo will be provided Monday to Friday between 8:15am and 8:45am, near the canteen.

The bread is kindly donated by Bakers Delight each week.

We are now offering cereal: Corn Flakes, Rice Bubbles and Sultana Bran!
PAKENHAM SECONDARY COLLEGE

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Pakenham Secondary College.

Nomination forms may be obtained by contacting the School and asking for Jackie Stewart. They must be lodged by **4.00 pm on Monday, February 22, 2016**.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on Monday, March 7, 2016.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>THREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018</td>
<td>ONE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Ray Squires
Principal
School Council Elections – Information for Parents

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:

- A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- A mandated elected DET 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 appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all 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 Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

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?**

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**Remember**

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the principal for further information.**