

College Newsletter March 2016

College Council election results

The number of Parent nominees for College Council matched the number of vacancies advertised to the college community. Consequently I am pleased to announce that Andrea Mansell and Norma Bertram are duly elected to our College Council for 2016-2017. Our new staff representatives on College Council will be Nicole Gray and Nicholas Hooper.

Our 2016 members are:

- Andrea Mansell - parent
- Norma Bertram - parent
- Claire Bennett - parent
- Arif Oztan - parent
- Jamal Abawajy - community
- Nicole Gray – DET Member
- Nicholas Hooper – DET Member
- Tess Turner – community
- Suzie Gerada – Assistant Principal
- Martin Mielimaka – Assistant Principal
- Kathrine Rix – Financial Officer
- Michael Fawcett – Principal/Executive Officer

Enrolment Growth

We have experienced an enrolment spike since day one 2016. Planning for enrolments is a tricky equation in a growth corridor school and unfortunately this year we were taken by surprise at the actual number of families moving into Tarneit/Truganina over the summer holidays. The result is that 30+ more students have enrolled since we started the year. This placed pressure on class sizes and staffing and meant that changes had to be made during the term to ensure our classes remained at a reasonable size. We have recruited 4 more staff to support our growing numbers for 2016 and the lessons learnt this term will help us to more accurately plan our needs for 2017 - when our number are going to continue to grow...and grow.

Stage 2 Building Program

The college awaits news on our Stage 2 Building program. If we receive funding for Stage 2 it will be announced in the May 3 State Budget. I will inform the community as soon as I receive any news.

Landscaping works

During Term 1 the college has completed landscaping works around our grounds. We have spent a considerable amount on landscaping the area around our new Well-Being Centre portable. In addition we have added an outdoor classroom space and grass seed has been sewn in an area we will use for outdoor sports. Much of this work was completed by our Maintenance manager Mark – a great job. This area will be available for students early in Term 2.



Tarneit Senior College - before and after school

It is great to see so many of our students getting to school early and staying back after school to work with our staff. Please be aware that the college does not officially open each morning until 8.30am. Students who arrive prior to this are welcome to work in Building B but they are not supervised until 8.30am.

The number of students staying at school after 3.00pm has been incredible again this year. Our students are involved in a range of activities with the main one being working with individual teachers to improve their academic understanding. Wednesday after school is our main organised study session with FREE Tutors available for students; but students are welcome to stay back any night for extra help. Monday and Tuesday nights are our staff meeting nights so in general these nights will not be used by staff for study sessions. We expect that any student staying back after school will have notified parents that they are here at school. No after school session is compulsory but many will be highly recommended for students to attend.

Student Attendance

The college has a 90% minimum attendance requirement for students to pass at each year level. For our new Year 10 students this may be the first time they have experienced an attendance requirement of this nature. We currently have too many Year 10 students attending below this level. They will not pass unless their attendance improves in term 2. If you are experiencing difficulty in getting your child to attend each day please contact the college for support. House Leaders are contacting all families of students who are at risk of failing due to attendance.

Voluntary School Fees

Thanks to the many families who have paid their voluntary school fees for 2016. These fees are a vital component of our budget and enable us to purchase additional resources for your child. We ask those parents who are yet to pay the fee to contact our Business Manager Kathrine Rix to organise payment. Payment plans are available to suit family needs.

Student Voice

Martin Mielimaka has taken on the role of Student Voice coordinator in 2016. Some new initiatives have commenced this year with perhaps our most popular being our weekly video Bulletin production. Student Voice reps take our Daily Bulletin and turn it into an up to date News Bulletin played during Form Group to the rest of our student population. Feedback on this initiative has been sensational.

Annual Report & Annual Implementation Plan

The college 2015 Annual Report and our 2016 Annual Implementation Plan will be available for community reading on our website in late April. The Annual Report contains the following elements:

- School Performance Summary 2015
- Financial Performance & Position

The school performance summary is positive for our school. Available data reflects academic results, strong levels of parent and student opinion of our school and relatively high levels of student attendance.

The Annual Implementation Plan 2016 sets out our goals for 2016.

School Diary Use

A four year study at our previous school on what constituted a successful student at senior college revealed key elements of how to succeed at the later years. A major factor in being successful at yr12 is organisation. Our research revealed to us that **every** student in the top 10% of Yr12 results in our previous school over this four year period used their school diary effectively. There were no exceptions to this.

The relatively simple process of using a school diary every day to record work, due dates, teacher feedback and communication with and from parents will improve your child's results. We urge all parents to ensure their child has a diary and that they are using it every day. We welcome parent comments in diaries as well.

Diaries can be purchased from the general office at the reduced rate of \$12 from the start of Term 2.

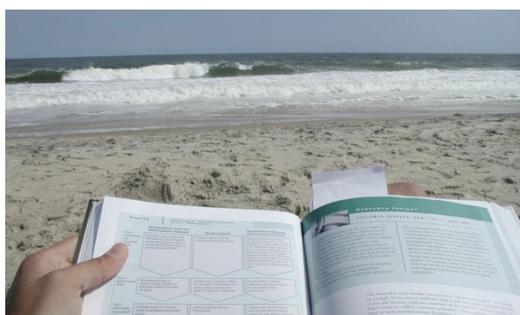
Flag Display

As part of a Multicultural Grant; the College purchased 60 flags in 2014. Since then our flag numbers have grown as our community has. We are waiting on another 6 flags to arrive which will bring us up to date as a symbol of our Multicultural community.



Holidays

We wish all students and families a great holiday break. Our Year 12 students need to relax during holidays...but not totally – this is an important time to revise work completed during Term 1. The college is also running a small number of 'holiday classes' in Year 12 subjects – teachers will have already organised these times with your child. This work is 'revision' work – no new topics will be covered during these classes.



Term 1 concludes

Term 1 finishes on Thursday March 24 at 2.00pm. All students are expected at school on this day and normal classes operate. Term 2 commences on **Monday 11 April**.

Safe holidays everyone.

Michael Fawcett, Suzie Gerada & Martin Mielimaka
Principal Team