



Respect

Responsibility

Resilience

Relationships

Upcoming  
Dates

## FEBURARY

Fri 16th  
School Swimming  
Sports (at Pyramid Hill  
Swimming pool)

Tue 20th  
Yr 7-10 Swimming

Fri 23rd  
P-12 Assembly

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## COLLEGE COUNCILLORS

Richard Hicks, Darren Welsh,  
Nathan Twigg, Dustin Pascoe,  
Steve Leed, Scott Wilkinson,  
Sarah Krahe, Nicole Hocking,  
Natalie Rose, Lynda Cartwright,  
Dean Young, Kia Hooke,  
Sharon Lister, Isabelle Morrison  
and Brodie Wagner.



## From the Principal

**Thanks For Your Understanding Everyone**

Thanks are extended to the entire college community for their understanding in regards to yesterday's school closure. I had hoped to be able to provide more timely advice to families but I am not in a position to be able to do so. It was not until 7:18am yesterday morning that I was able to clarify exactly what was taking place re the college yesterday and I appreciate the swift actions of all in getting the message spread. Particular thanks are extended to our bus drivers, who conducted their morning bus journey's despite not having to do so, ensuring that those who arrived at their bus-stops were informed of the days plans.

Any feedback on how we could improve communication or systems with regards to events such as yesterday is most welcome.

**Stage 2 Building Works—Contractors Bridge**

Our stage 2 building works is continuing at a good pace. Within the next 4—6 weeks we should see the slab poured for the new building and then construction will begin immediately after. The college will be closed to all from tomorrow until Monday, so that a great deal of earthmoving works can be conducted whilst the site is empty.

Our building contractors have also built a pedestrian bridge over the channel (see above) on the west side of the college so that they can park vehicles on the edge of the Pyramid-Yarraberb road, and access the building site without disturbing us fine folk here at the college. Please note that this pedestrian bridge is for contractors only and most certainly not for students.

**Swimming Sports Tomorrow**

We are excited to be holding our annual college swimming sports tomorrow and look forward to seeing our students arrive in their house colours. Please ensure that your child has a hat and sunscreen with them and remember to label items of clothing clearly. Mrs Ellis has organised a terrific day for all and we hope to see a number of family members in attendance. Please note that this year there is a slight change being made at the end of the day for any

parents/carers who are taking their children home straight from the pool. A sign-out desk will be located at the pool exit, with all families asked to sign out their child/ren at this desk if they are going straight home from the pool.

**Front Gates...**

The front gates to the college grounds will now be closed at some point next week. These gates will then remain closed so that we can provide an increased level of safety for all within the college grounds. Please know that the closing of the school gates is solely about safety and not about keeping parents, carers and families from the school grounds. Those who need to visit the college during school hours will still be able to park at the front of the college and access our grounds via the smaller personal access gate to the right of the college entrance. Those who need to bring a vehicle onto the college grounds will be able to stop at the front gates, call the college office and be 'buzzed through' remotely by office staff.

**College Council Next Week**

College Council was scheduled to be held last night, however due to the closure of the college yesterday it has now been moved to next Wednesday 21st Feb. We may have a couple of vacancies for parents to join college council after our March meeting, so please get in contact with myself or Richard Hicks if you are interested in joining college council..

**Naplan Later This Term**

Students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 will undertake Naplan tests later this term. As we get nearer to this testing period, students in these year levels will begin to discuss the testing period at home. Please ensure that you encourage your child/ren to do the best that they can do throughout the testing period. The individual best efforts of each child are all that we can ask for.

Hope to see you at the Pyramid Hill pool tomorrow!

Steve Leed—College Principal

## PAT-R & PAT-M

While our Year 3, 5, 7, and 9 students are preparing for NAPLAN tests, our Year 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 students will be completing PAT-Reading (PAT-R) and PAT-Maths (PAT-M) assessments. These 'Progressive Achievement Tests' are objective measures that compare student results to thousands of other students across Australia. This allows our teachers to identify any students who are performing well above or below expected levels, giving us the ability to better tailor our teaching and learning plans for the year.

The question format of these tests is similar to that of NAPLAN, which helps to keep our students familiar with the online testing process. The tests are also adaptive, which means the difficulty of the questions will change depending on how many the student is getting correct.

We will be conducting these tests again in Semester 2, which will help us track student progress over time.

Just like NAPLAN, we encourage students to put in their best effort, as this helps inform teacher judgements, but it is just one test and should not be something to stress about.

If you would like more information about these tests, please contact the school.

## Assistant Principal's news

So much action this week. I do hope everyone got out of the storm unscathed apart from the obvious trees down like we had at school. Every time we think there is no more stay home days, we are struck with something like this. Thanks for everyone's understanding with the suddenness of no school and the inconvenience that that must have caused.

Swimming sports tomorrow. Normal things to remember. Pack lunch. Snags are available for a gold coin donation but don't rely on them just in

case Leedy and I get there first. A canteen will operate and our Vocational major students will be selling treats too. Wear house colours, particularly if they are red. Bring a big hat and a rashie. Sunscreen up like a slippery animal. Have fun.

All buses will run normal routes and times tomorrow **EXCEPT BUS 3**. Bus 3 will run a reversed and adjusted route. Parents should refer to compass and students of bus 3 will have a note in their bags tonight about bus times. If your child is leaving from the

pool, please let a staff member know. Buses will leave Pyramid Hill at approximately 3pm. Return times to home should be the same but may be a little different due to reduced numbers on buses. Buses will aim to arrive at Pyramid pool as close to 9am as possible. An assembly will be held at 9:15. Events will start at 9:30am.

I hope the weather is as awesome as it has been today.

Go Long.

Mr Wilko

## Behold our Bunnings Builders

Yr 10 VM Class



A huge shout out to Bunnings who generously donated their time, materials and keen know how.

# Sub-School Updates

## Junior

### SWIMMING SPORTS!

The big day is tomorrow! Students are going to be asked about what events they would like to be in. Sometimes when we do this, students who cannot swim a lap will put their name down! If the classroom teacher has doubts, you may receive a phone call or email for follow up questions. At the end of the day, we want all students to have a great day. We want them to feel confident about what they are swimming and not have to worry! Students in Grades 3 & 4 who qualify, will go onto the next stage in swimming at Bendigo.

### 3/4 SPELLEX

Our Grade 3/4 students have started a new spelling program in the classroom. This is a shift from our

Sounds Write which we do across P-2. Students have completed 5 lessons of SpellEx and agree that it is trickier than what we were doing! The students have been learning about prefixes, suffixes and base words. It has been great to see students use this technical vocabulary in the classroom too! So far, we are all really enjoying doing both SpellEx and Sounds Write in our classrooms.

### KIDS HOPE

Our Kids Hope program will begin again in the middle of this Term. This is a program where selected students have a 1:1 mentor once a week. This time is used for students to talk about their emotions, how they are going with school and home. Students will be selected within the next two weeks. If your child is selected, you will be notified.

## Middle

Middle years students have been busy preparing for tomorrow's swimming sports. Our Middle school house captains spent this morning running sign-up sessions for students with a very clear message: Participation is the key to winning on the day! Congratulations to those students who were voted house captains. It is great to have more leaders in middle school. Good luck to all the students competing tomorrow!

The Year 7/8 swimming program will continue next week but our Year 5/6 program is complete. Thank you to everyone who helped with these days. It is a great effort to get so many students to and from the school each day.

Our year 7s returned to class this week after their week away on camp. Students went rafting, mountain bike riding, and hiking during the week. Thank you to Miss Mitchell and Mr Hughes for attending with students.

## Senior

### Student Representative Council Executive

Mrs Heaslip is leading the SRC team this year and has altered the structure this year to increase numbers and not limit students to only two representatives per year level. Our newest executive team consists of Alex F, Amy T, Mason H, Isaac J and Ned C. Already these students have started planning for events and programs for 2024. I'm excited to see the impact they will have.

### House Captains

Congratulations to our House Captains who will get busy tomorrow at the Swim Sports leading, cheering, organising and swimming.

Evans: Mas H & Lillie H

Laird: Ned C & Daisy S

Long: Brodie W & Hollee V

Shaw: Cade T & Char S

### School Based Apprenticeships (SBAT)

Our latest sign up for SBAT is Tyler R, who was fortunate enough to be offered this fantastic opportunity through Michael Hocking Engineering. Tyler started working for Michael in the school holidays however, officially signed and started the apprenticeship this week. Tyler will work 2 days a week and attend school for the other 3 days. At present we have 7 students completing SBATs. If students or parents/carers are interested in finding out more about these opportunities please contact myself or Angela Poxon (Careers Coordinator).

### Thanks Bunnings

As part of a Teen Program Bunnings kindly donated materials, time and their expertise to help us build equipment, which our Y10 VM class then decided to donate to the Dingee Preschool (how sweet).

### Wild weather

I hope everyone is ok since recovering from the storm on Tuesday. I found our sandpit in most rooms of our house when I arrived home. Take care.

## AROUND ELP SPORTS

### SWIMMING CARNIVAL

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16!**

### **PYRAMID HILL SWIMMING POOL**

Consent has been provided for all student who have participated in the school swimming program. Students in year 11 and 12 will need to provide consent on Compass.

### BBQ

Our SRC will provide a BBQ for our swimming carnival, a gold coin donation is appreciated. Students will need to still pack their lunch, plenty of snacks and water.

### BUSES

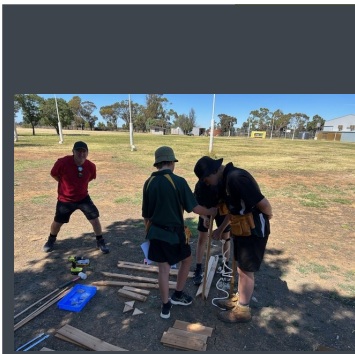
Buses will collect and return students to their usual bus stops. The buses will NOT stop at school. Collection and drop of times to be confirmed.

### House Colours

Students are encouraged to wear their house colours over the top of their bathers on Friday. Please ensure they are SUNSMART!

### Programs

Program and event schedule is available on Compass.



## Canteen

Fri 16th	SWIMMING SPORTS	<b>2024 Feb/Mar</b>	
Mon 19th	Prue Milgate	Mon 26th	Sam Ellis
Tues 20th	Sue Pickles	Tues 27th	Sue Pickles
Wed 21st	Karen Pascoe	Wed 28th	Kylie Addlem
Thurs 22nd	Sue Pickles	Thurs 29th	Sue Pickles
Fri 23rd	Michelle Balic Crystal Chuhaj	Fri 1st	Deb Smith Lisa Twigg