

Principal's Report and News

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Concord School Website

If you require information about Concord School at any time then please visit our comprehensive website at www.concordsch.vic.edu.au. To view 'special events' you will need a user name and password. Please contact the office for this information.

Official School Facebook Page

To be kept directly informed of student learning and school news, please LIKE us on facebook through the link [facebook.com/concordschoolvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/concordschoolvictoria)



Principal's Report

6th February 2015, Newsletter No 1

Welcome back to all members of the school community as we commence another school year. The past week has seen our students regrouping with old friends, forming new relationships and displaying excellent learning behaviours. All students have been adhering to the school motto and striving 'to be the best that they can be'.



I can assure parents/carers that the Concord School staff will continue to do everything possible to ensure your child is working in a safe and supportive environment that values and celebrates student learning. I look forward to a very rewarding and successful year for our parents, staff and most importantly our students. Please contact me at any time if you wish to discuss any matter concerning your child's education.

New Students and Staff

I would firstly like to send a very special welcome to all the new students and their families. The new students to our school this year are:

Lower Primary	Mason, Joshua, Roman, Shalom, Jett, Kenai, Richard, Edward, James, Lucas, George, Eliza, Benjamin, Thai and Lukas.
Upper Primary	Amir, Alyssa, Jack, Liam and Emily and Ilayda.
Secondary 7-8	Corey, Ridwan, Joshua, Anthony, Joshua, Emma, Zac, Billie-Lea, Alex, Gekonde, Jack, Peter and Zachery.

We welcome several new staff members to Concord School. They are:

Courtney Shiels	(teacher Secondary 7-8)
Katie Lovegrove	(teacher Secondary 9-10)
Chantelle Hopkins	(ES Lower Primary)
Samantha Schembri	(ES Upper Primary)
Nicola Long	(ES Discovery Centre)

For a complete list of our school staff, please go to the "Our Staff" section of the school website.

Student Behaviour

In 2015, Concord School once again has high expectations in regards to student behaviour. Our students will be given the support they require to learn and succeed to the best of their ability and there is no excuse for inappropriate behaviour. Behaviour such as bullying, swearing, disobedience and property damage is completely unacceptable at school as well as in our society.

Parents/carers will be contacted and a conference convened if the student continues to breach school rules. The school places a high priority on making sure all students and staff work together in an environment that supports, encourages and stimulates learning and social development.



Coming Events for 2015

Date	Event
Monday 23rd February 2015	Curriculum Day - students not required at school
Monday 9th March 2015	Labour Day Holiday - students not required at school
Friday 27th March 2015	Whole school assembly - Bundoora campus gym @ 9.15am
Friday 27th March 2015	Last day of term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal

Communication with Parents/Carers

At Concord School, we believe that the education of your child is a partnership between yourselves and our school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, Team Leader or another member of the school leadership team through the Student Diary, a phone call or an e-mail.

If you require information about Concord School at any time then please visit our website at www.concordsch.vic.gov.au. The website is attractive, easy to navigate and contains comprehensive information about the school including the school calendar, newsletters, curriculum information and staff contact details. I request that parents/carers advise Julie, in the main office, if there is a photo or video of your child that you would like to be removed from the website.

Please LIKE our facebook page at www.facebook.com/concordschoolvictoria to access information regarding section and whole school events. The page currently has 520 LIKES and it is frequently updated with information and photographs of section and whole school events.

The school has discontinued the use of the phone app so please delete this if you have uploaded it onto your phone. The reason is that we had no way of knowing who had downloaded it so we were unable to send out important information as an 'alert' as only some parents/carers would receive it. The school has an effective text messaging service and will continually update information through our website and facebook page.

School Structure

From 2015, the structures within our school will be re-named to align with those in mainstream schools. These changes have been carefully considered by our School Council and Leadership team and we believe that they are important for a number of reasons.

Please see the following tables. The top table shows the previous structure and the bottom table shows the current structure.

PREVIOUS

CONCORD SCHOOL				
JUNIOR CAMPUS	GRIMSHAW CAMPUS			
JUNIOR SECTION	MIDDLE SECTION	SECONDARY SECTION	PATHWAYS SECTION	TRANSITION SECTION

CURRENT

CONCORD SCHOOL				
WATSONIA CAMPUS	BUNDOORA CAMPUS			
PRIMARY SCHOOL		SECONDARY SCHOOL		
LOWER PRIMARY	UPPER PRIMARY	SECONDARY 7-8	SECONDARY 9-10	SECONDARY 11-12

The following changes have been made:

- The campuses have been re-named Watsonia Campus and Bundoora Campus.
- The Year Prep-6 classes will now be in the Primary School and the Year 7-12 classes will be in the Secondary School. Year 11-12 will also be known as Senior Secondary.
- The Primary School will incorporate the learning areas of Lower Primary and Upper Primary. The Secondary School will incorporate the learning areas of Secondary 7-8, Secondary 9-10 and Secondary 11-12 (Senior Secondary).

The reasons for these changes are that this terminology:

- is simpler and provides an accurate description of where the campuses are and the age of the students within each learning area.
- makes it easier for current parents and students when discussing their schooling with others familiar with mainstream terminology. For example, a student in Pathways can say that they are in Year 9 as opposed to saying they are in Pathways and then having to explain they are in a Special School and what that means. Prospective parents and students are also more easily able to identify with enrolment in our school.
- this terminology emphasises that we are one P-12 school working together for all students. We now teach through the mainstream AusVELS and VCAL curriculums and use consistent assessment tools to collect data and track student progress. Our curriculum programs are now carefully planned to consider the 'learning journey' of students from Prep-12 with 'learning areas' differentiating though offering content and teaching strategies that are both age and developmentally appropriate.

In case you were wondering, year levels cannot be used within the Primary School as has been done in the Secondary School as each year the number of students who move from the Lower Primary to the Upper Primary across the Year 3-4 levels varies based on the number of available classrooms at the Bundoora Campus. Therefore, there is not a fixed year level at which a student moves from one Campus to another.

School Uniform

This is a reminder that it is compulsory for all students to wear the full school uniform each day and that the school uniform policy is strictly enforced. Thank you to parents/carers who have supported their children in wearing the correct school uniform.

For parents/carers of students in Years 7-12, class teachers will be informing you as to which days the sports uniform is to be worn. Please note the following policy in regard to the wearing of the school jumper.

Sport Uniform

The red woollen jumper is not to be worn with the 'sport uniform'. Only the spray jacket and/or rugby jumper are to be worn with the 'sport uniform' over the polo shirt.

Formal Uniform

The spray jacket is not to be worn directly on top of the school shirt or dress. The red woollen jumper is the first item that must be worn if the student is cold. The spray jacket can then be worn over the red woollen jumper if the student is still cold.

Please contact Deb Whiteway in the school office regarding purchases of uniform. Further information, including policies and price lists, can be found through the school website at http://www.concordsch.vic.edu.au/enrolment/School_uniform.html

School Curriculum Day - Monday, 23rd February

The first Curriculum Day (Pupil Free) day for the year is on Monday, 23rd February.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is scheduled on 12th -14th May for all students across Australia in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students with intellectual disabilities can be exempted from one or all of the NAPLAN tests and students at Concord School generally do not perform this assessment.

Please contact me before Friday 20th February, if you do wish for your child to sit for this assessment.



Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Patrick.

Patrick has made a great start to the year in PCA. He is a happy student who is polite and well mannered. Patrick tries his best, completes activities, follows routines and cooperates with his teacher and classmates. He is a responsible helper who likes to assist his classmates and teacher. Patrick has many friends and loves to chat and play with them.

"Students striving to be the best they can be!"

Jason Coningsby
Principal

President's Message

I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and may 2015 be all you want it to be for you and your family. On behalf of the school community and the School Council I would like to welcome all new students and their families into our school.



Our school is committed to delivering improved student outcomes for your child and we welcome the participation by parent/carers in school programs, events and activities. Please take up the opportunity to be involved in your child's education.

We are proud of our achievements in ensuring that students have access to excellent programs, resources and learning opportunities. I look forward to working with you to continue to improve Concord School for our students so that they may achieve the best possible educational experience.

To our fantastic staff, I would like to wish you all the best for the coming year in your work and support of our students.

School Council Election Timeline

The timeline for School Council elections is as follows:

- Notice of election and call for nominations: Monday 9th February
- Close of nominations: Monday 16th February
- Prepare ballot papers and distribute (if required): Tuesday 17th February
- Close of ballot: Monday 2nd March

"Working together for our children"

Mark Lancaster
School Council President

Assistant Principals' Report

2015 has started positively for both students and staff. It was great to see our new students and the Year 7 students looking very grown up in their secondary uniform.



Late last year we decided on our 2015 school captains and we announced that Hassan and Danielle will take on this important role this year.



We are confident they will represent Concord School exceptionally and congratulate them on their appointment.

In 2015, Concord School once again has high expectations in regards to student behaviour. Our students will be given the support they require to learn and succeed to the best of their ability and there is no excuse for inappropriate behaviour. Behaviour such as bullying, swearing, non-compliance, inappropriate use of mobile phones or personal technology and property damage are completely unacceptable at school as well as in our society. Parents/carers will be contacted and a conference convened if the student continues to breach school rules. The school places a high priority on making sure all students and staff work together in an environment that supports, encourages and stimulates learning and social development.

A few reminders please:

- Please do not use the front of the school to drop off or collect students in your car during the following times. 8:30-9:15 and 2:30-3:15. Nearly 300 students catch the buses during these times and the buses need sole access to this area.

- As there is a high demand for parking spots at the back of the school, we would appreciate if you could drop off your child off and move away from this area as promptly and safely as possible.
- Secondary students **MUST** come to school in the full and correct uniform. Any valid reason why they cannot be in uniform requires a note from the parent /carer.
- Students may have personal technology and phones at school to listen to music in their own time but they are not permitted to access social media such as Facebook, to use the internet and to text or make calls during school hours.

Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

Family and Friends Association

Our first meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday 16th February at 1.00pm in the Meeting Room at the Campus. Preschool children are welcome. The meeting will finish in plenty of time for parents/carers to collect students from the Watsonia Campus.

We are a small group of Parents/Carers and new members are always needed and welcome.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sue Gibb
Secretary
Family and Friends Association



Asthma and Thunderstorms



Summer storms are becoming more frequent throughout Australia. Thunderstorms can combine heavy rain, high humidity and strong winds. A European study found there are observations in favour of the possibility that thunderstorms disturb ground-level pollen grains, bursting the pollen grains and making the allergens small enough to be inhaled into the lungs. There is also evidence that after rain and during wet conditions there are a larger amount of fungal spores in the air. These can act as a trigger for asthma symptoms.

What can you do?

- Ensure preventer medication is taken as prescribed.
- Have an up to date Asthma Care Plan.
- If your asthma gets worse during thunderstorms try to stay indoors with the windows closed.
- Always carry your reliever medication with you.

For more information on Thunderstorms and asthma please see www.asthmaaustralia.org.au



Concord School Careers Expo



2015!



Come along to discover information and explore post-school options from a wide range of exhibitors, all under one roof!

Date: Wednesday 4th of March 2015

Place: Concord School Gym

Time: 7pm-8:30pm

Three big changes to the vaccine program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Banyule Council's immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school on 9467 3972 by 28th February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Banyule Council.
2. In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.
3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to <http://immunehero.health.vic.gov.au/>.



Community News

Aspect Positive
Behaviour Support



Positive Behaviour Support Workshop

For Parents and Carers of Children and Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

(see eligibility criteria below)

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshop in the Northern Region of Victoria.

More than 1200 families have participated in Aspect's Positive Behaviour Support workshops across Australia. Post workshop evaluations showed an effectiveness of the workshops, with participants reporting decreases in challenging behaviours and increases in confidence and capacity to support their children and young adults.

When:	11 th , 12 th & 13 th March, 2015
Where:	Whittlesea Freemasons Hall - 20 Beech St, Whittlesea VIC 3757
Time:	9:30am-2:30pm (9:15am for registration)
Cost:	FREE (Tea, coffee & biscuits provided ~ participants to bring own lunch)
Registration:	Register online at www.autismspectrum.org.au/registration

Please note: You may search for this specific workshop location by entering the location into the 'Search Keyword' field

Eligibility to participate in this Workshop:

- » Parents or carers of children and young adults aged between 6 - 25 years, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- » The individual with ASD must be living at home
- » Participating families are encouraged to invite professionals or service providers working with them to attend the workshop

Families participating in this workshop will:

- » Develop an understanding of autism and how an ASD impacts upon learning and behaviour
- » Learn how to be proactive by creating an autism friendly environment at home
- » Learn how to write an autism specific behaviour support plan for one of their child's behaviours
- » Learn how to write a plan to respond confidently when challenging behaviour occurs
- » Learn how to teach new skills to promote their child's independence and quality of life

Enquiries:

Contact Amber Day – Workshop Administrator or Heather Kirkhope - Service Coordinator
Phone: 03 9377 6600 or email: aday@autismspectrum.org.au

What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:

"Brilliant information and concrete strategies to use, thank you. I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child's, my own and my family's quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others."

"Fantastic presentation. Very interactive, affirming & capacity building. Ideas not just discussed but taught how to follow through on."
"Best information session on Autism I have been to. So much clarity about getting to the core behaviour, unpeeling the onion. Enjoyed all the visuals. Thank you so much."

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) ABN 12 000 637 267

Aspect Victoria Suite 2B, Level 2, 12 Hall Street Moonee Ponds VIC 3039 | PO Box 1115 Moonee Ponds VIC 3039 | T 03 9377 6600 W www.autismspectrum.org.au

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia's largest not for profit autism specific service provider.

Established in 1966, Aspect provides a wide range of services and support. In 2010 Aspect commenced operation in Victoria.

Aspect has been funded by the Department of Human Services to provide a range of positive behaviour support programs across Victoria.