

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) or electronically by clicking on the link below.



Centrelink Officer Meeting Families/Carers At Centrelink Greensborough

Centrelink will meet with Families/Carers of Concord School Students **at their Office**, 16-20 Grimshaw Street Greensborough on Tuesday **18th March 2014** between the hours of **9.30am - 10.30am**.

Centrelink staff will help with any queries/forms or any questions needing to be answered.

Principal's Report

7th February 2014, 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:

Junior	Sienna, Isaac, Joel, Owen, Benjamin, Alannah, Sihaam, Yenuli, Aansh and Jasper
Middle	Connor, Luciano, Qasim, Leo, Cassidy, Jake, Luke P and Luke S
Secondary	Maddison, Natasha, Hebe, Brittney, Mia, Rika, Con, Teresa, Jayden, Shania, Joshua, Rhys and Tyson
Transition	Erik

We also take pleasure in welcoming the following new staff to our school:

- Mara Degenhardt (Teacher – Pathways)
- Sally Reichelt (Occupational Therapist - Juniors)
- Jesse Donaldson (Discovery Centre Technician)
- Violet Farah (Student Wellbeing Coordinator – Years 7-12)
- Rosemary Van Aperen (School Nurse)

We also welcome back Belinda Rojo (Music – Juniors) and Annemarie Holmyard (Careers) from Family Leave.

As mentioned late last year, we welcome Kirrily Lamers into our Assistant Principal (Management and Accountability) position.

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

Updating Students' Emergency Contacts

In December last year a printout of your child's information was sent home to all parents/carers to update any details. **We are still waiting for many of these to be returned.** Please contact the office if you have any concerns.

Coming Events for 2014

Date	Event
Monday 24th February 2014	Curriculum Day - Pupil free day
Wednesday 5th March 2014	Concord School Careers Expo
Monday 10th March 2014	Labour Day - School closed

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

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 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 356 LIKES and it is frequently updated with information and photographs of section and whole school events.



The school also has a phone app which can be downloaded. As the school has an effective text messaging system the app is not used to send alerts, however it can be used to quickly access contact details as well as the school calendar of events. To download the app go to your browser (eg. Safari) and enter the URL www.classapps.com.au.

Please note, this exact address must be typed in with the www. or it will not work you will then get a login screen which will ask for the school name and password which are both 'Concord'. After this loads you will be given the option to add as an icon. Please do so and an icon of the schools' logo will load onto your phone. The first time you use it you will be asked to add it to your homescreen. Please do so as this sizes the app appropriately.



Student Behaviour

In 2014, 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.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is scheduled on 13th -15th 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, 21st February, if you do wish for your child to sit for this assessment.

School Curriculum Day - Monday, 24th February

The first Curriculum Day (Pupil Free) day for the year is on Monday, 24th February. I apologise that there is a misprint in the Student Diaries which states that this Curriculum Day is on Thursday, 24th February.

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Alex.

Alex has made a positive start to 2014. He has settled well into JCA and already understands his new class' routines and rules which he always follows. Alex has shown interest in learning and has participated enthusiastically in all activities. He approaches these activities with confidence and independence. Alex shares and cooperates with his classmates and has made new friends. He enjoys taking on classroom responsibilities and likes to help.

A great start to the year Alex!

"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 2014 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 10th February
- Close of nominations: Monday 17th February
- Prepare ballot papers and distribute (if required): Tuesday 18th February
- Close of ballot: Monday 3rd March

"Working together for our children"

Mark Lancaster
School Council President

Assistant Principals' Report

Welcome all students and families to a new school year. We are very pleased to welcome a new member to our team this year. Kirrily Lamers has returned to Concord after five years at Ivanhoe East Primary School. Before her stint at Ivanhoe East, Kirrily was a Junior Section teacher here at Concord. She is extremely pleased to be back and looks forward to the fun and action packed year that we have planned for the students. Her role at Concord is the Assistant Principal, Accountability and Management. Within this role Kirrily is responsible for rosters, timetables, OH&S, policies, relief staff, the Specialist Team and many other organisational duties. Kirrily joins existing Assistant Principals Colin Simpson and Kath Moore.



Colin's role is to support the students, staff and families at Concord School. He works with the Social Competency School Improvement Team to ensure that the entire community is supported and that any issues that arise throughout the year are quickly resolved in order to maintain the positive and safe environment at school that we pride ourselves on here at Concord. This year Colin's Welfare team has a new member. Her name is Violet Farah, she will be working with the students from Secondary all the way through to Transition as the Welfare coordinator.



Kath runs the Junior Section of Concord School. She leads curriculum, manages staff and students, develops protocols and looks after the wellbeing of staff and students alike. Anything that relates to the Junior Section of the School is under the umbrella of Kath Moore's expert direction.



The three of us have an open door policy and are here to help if you ever need anything. Please don't hesitate to contact us via phone, email or alternatively make an appointment with us to meet in person.

Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

School Nurse



Hello and welcome to all in 2014!

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself to the Concord School Community.

My Name is Rosemary and I am the new School Nurse at Concord School.

My work hours are 9.00am to 3.00pm Monday to Friday during the school term.

Please feel free to contact me during these hours if you have any health matters concerning your child that you wish to discuss.

I am enjoying getting to know many new faces as we enter the new school year and look forward to meeting many more.

Keep Well and Stay Safe
Rosemary Van Aperen EN D2

Family and Friends Association

Our first meeting for 2014 will be held on Monday 10th February at 1.00pm in the Conference Room at the Grimshaw Campus.

Afternoon tea will be provided, and preschool children are welcome. The meeting will finish in plenty of time for parents/carers to collect students from the Junior 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

The Concord School Canteen opens on Tuesday 11th February 2014

Please remember that all orders need to be on a brown paper bag. (if the school supplies the bag that is an extra 5c that needs to be added to the lunch order)

ATTENTION ALL YEAR 9, 10, 11 AND 12 PARENTS CAREER NEWS CONCORD CAREERS EXPO WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2014

I strongly urge all parents of students in Yr 9, 10, 11 and 12 to attend this Expo. It is a unique opportunity for you to explore post school options and services relevant to your son or daughter all under the one roof. It is vital for parents of Yr 12 students to attend this valuable evening which will greatly assist families in their decision planning for life after leaving Concord School.

****APPOINTMENTS WITH GAYNOR – CAREERS AND TRANSITION COORDINATOR**

I am taking appointments for individual Careers' Counselling sessions with Year 12 parents. This initial interview is important to establish communication and outline processes for what happens with assisting you in 'Futures' planning. Please phone or email to make an appointment with me if you haven't already.

Gaynor Martyn - Careers and Transition Coordinator

Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2014:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses **including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions** for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2014, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2014 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of \$150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2014. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2014, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, \$62 million over four years will be redirected to the State's most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

On the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or

Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**

Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2014, you must:

be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**

be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004** **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e — the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at **28th January 2014** (Instalment One) and **14th July 2014** (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2014:

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2014 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is **28th February 2014**.

Foster Parents must provide a letter from The Department of Human Services stating they have temporary caregivers.



CONCORD CAREERS EXPO



DATE: Wednesday 5th March 2014

TIME: 7pm – 8.30pm

PLACE: Concord School Gym

What does happen after Concord School?

Come along and find out about all the exciting options.

This is the best opportunity you will have to find out about everything under one roof.

Community News

SOCCER PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



DOC Football Academy is happy to announce that they will be running a soccer program for children with special needs starting on 15th February.

The program will include a lot of fun based activities that will give the kids the opportunity to show off their soccer skills.

Venue: Eltham College, 1660 Main Road, Research.

Date: 15th February- 5th April

Time: Saturdays 11am-12 noon.

Cost: \$180.00