

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

19th February 2015, Newsletter No 2

It is extremely pleasing to report to the school community that the students have experienced an excellent start to the school year. They are busily engaged in learning activities within their classroom and acting responsibly on the playground. The 'Meet the Teacher' evening was held on Wednesday 4th February. It was a perfect summer evening and the barbeque at the Bundoora Campus gave parents/carers an opportunity to communicate with each other as well as the school staff. Thank you once again to the FFA for their outstanding support at the Bundoora Campus which included the purchase of food and drink.



The Welcome BBQ at our Watsonia Campus that was originally scheduled for last Friday evening, has been rescheduled for Friday 20th March. It was postponed due to the heavy rain and lightning activity which arrived on schedule in the early evening.

The reconstruction of the Upper Primary Wing is progressing well and is on schedule for completion by the commencement of Term 2. The Upper Primary and Secondary 7-8 classes who have relocated to the Transition Centre have settled in well. The Secondary 11-12 VCAL students are enjoying their change of scenery at Bundoora Secondary College.



Curriculum Day – Monday 23rd February

This is a reminder that next Monday 23rd February is a Curriculum (Pupil Free) Day at Concord School. Staff will be participating in a full day of professional learning. The other Curriculum Days in 2015 will be on Tuesday 9th June and Monday 16th November.

School Captains and Vice Captains

Hassan and Danielle are our School Captains for 2015. The captains are extremely happy and proud of their achievement. In recent years the School Captains have taken on an important role within the school. They speak at assemblies, meet and greet important visitors and communicate any student concerns to Colin (through the SRC) and other school staff.

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

Parent Payments

A letter was sent home prior to the commencement of school in regard to voluntary parent payments. The voluntary contribution of payments by parents/carers is an important aspect of Concord School's funding. These funds are used to purchase essential equipment and/or materials which will resource the programs Concord School is able to provide.

Please remember that if this donation is made freely with the knowledge that there can be no refunds and no material benefit obtained, then the parents/carers will be able to claim a **tax deduction** for this donation. An Electronic Funds Transfer option has been included this year in addition to credit and cash.

The School Council sincerely thanks all families who have already made these payments.

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements

Parents are reminded that the DET 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. 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

Every Day Counts – School Attendance

We all want our students to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Missing school can have a major impact on a child's future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they'll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, please speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

New laws mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason. If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Charlotte.

Charlotte is a happy and caring student who has made many friends in the classroom, as well as in the playground. It is a pleasure to see her smiling face each day. Charlotte's positive attitude and her eagerness to learn make her an excellent role model to all students in Upper Primary School. Charlotte loves to help others, we can always rely on her to assist other students or carry out monitor roles within the school. Charlotte particularly enjoys Numeracy, ICT and the Music elective.

Charlotte gives everything her best effort and works hard all the time. Charlotte was given the honour of being an Upper Primary Leader in Term One, which she has taken on with diligence. Congratulations Charlotte, you are a worthy recipient of the Principal's Award!

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

Jason Coningsby
Principal

School Council President's Message

School Council met for the first time this year on Monday 16th February.



The agenda items that were discussed at the meeting were:

- School Council Elections
- Family and Friends Association Update
- Primary Wing Refurbishment
- Annual Implementation Plan
- Concord School Policies
- Permission to finish early on the last day of each term

School Council Elections

There is no election required this year as the number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies on School Council.

Danni Lucidi, Tammy Johnston, John Qiu and Sandi Findlay have re-nominated and are continuing on School Council. Carmel Zammit (mother of Braydon in Year 7) is filling a Casual Vacancy on School Council. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Carmel onto the School Council and I look forward to working with her, and the rest of the School Council, to improve the educational opportunities for the students of Concord School.

A very special thank you goes to Fran Hoad who resigned as her daughter completed Year 12 last year. Fran served on the School Council for 12 years and was previously the School Council President. Colin Simpson and Christine Pillot have re-nominated and are continuing on School Council.

"Working together for our children"

Mark Lancaster
School Council President

Assistant Principals' Report

State Schools' Relief has provided school uniform and footwear to students of families experiencing financial difficulties in Victorian State Schools since 1930. This tradition continues today, with requests for support nearly doubling in 2015. As such, the Department of Education and Training has now provided additional funding to ensure the most vulnerable students receive their essential school items.



State School Relief provides school uniform items and footwear for children from their own supplies. Items are provided FREE OF CHARGE to families and are discreetly delivered to the school by courier within three working days, at no additional cost. Should a uniform item be unavailable, State School Relief will pay a partial subsidy. State School Relief will also provide an email authorisation to the uniform supplier.

Concord School are affiliated with State Schools Relief and can use this service if necessary to ensure that students are able to wear the correct uniform items to school. For further information about this service please visit the website www.ssr.net.au

Our building works are now well under way at the Bundoora Campus but parking for staff and parents is still very stretched. Unfortunately we are quite limited by the available space. When picking up and dropping off students it would be much appreciated if you could be mindful of the fact that others are also looking for parking spaces.

Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

Family and Friends Association

Family and Friends Association met on Monday 16th February where a New Committee for 2015 was elected. Congratulations to our President Antoinette Ribchester who will continue in the role. Kylie Lewin was elected as Vice President, Viv Butler as Treasurer and Sue Gibb as Secretary. We have four members returning to the General Committee and welcome one new member.

Fundraisers for Term 1 will be **Hot Cross Buns** and **Entertainment Books**. Flyers for the Hot Cross Buns will be sent home in March with delivery in the last week of Term 1. **Hot Cross Buns** will be \$6.50 per half dozen with 3 flavours to choose from. Details about the **Entertainment Books** will be sent home as soon as available.

We are also asking for any donations of new items to assist with our Mother's Day Raffle, all donations would be greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 16th March at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at Bundoora Campus.

New members are always welcome.

Sue Gibb
Secretary
Family and Friends Association



Depositing Money via Electronic Funds Transfer into Concord School Bank Accounts

Please make sure any money paid by Electronic Funds Transfer is paid into the correct bank account.

Camps and excursions are paid into a different bank account to school contribution payments.

Please call Concord School if you have concerns with depositing money into our bank accounts.

Jeannine Casey
Business Manager

Kitchen Garden at Concord School

This year in Food Technology the students have started their garden beds near the Transition Centre for the students to grow their own vegetables, fruits and herbs to use in the kitchen. We have been working hard to get the garden up and running.

The Secondary 11 & 12 elective group "Eat Fresh" went to Bunnings to choose some plants and get supplies to get the gardens started. The Secondary 7 & 8 students helped plant, water and mulch the garden beds. All the students have obtained their wheelbarrow and garden tool licences throughout the week so that they know how to work safely in the garden. A big thank you to Ken, Dave and the horticulture group for painting and filling our new garden beds with soil – even in the heat!



Jane Stacey and Roberta Antonello
Food Technology



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE

HEALTH ALERT! RE FROZEN MIXED BERRIES

Information about Hepatitis A contamination of frozen berries

As you may be aware, links were found over the weekend between 1kg bags of Nanna's frozen berries and at least five cases of Hepatitis A, three of which are in Victoria.

As a precaution and on advice from Dr Rosemary Lester, Victoria's Chief Health Officer, the company has recalled this product on 14 February and subsequently two further products on 15 February due to concerns about potential for contamination with Hepatitis A virus.

The products recalled as at 9am 18/02/15 are:

Nanna's Mixed Berries 1kg; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 22/11/16

Nanna's Raspberries 1kg; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 22/11/16

Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries 300g; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 10/12/17

Creative Gourmet Mixed Berries 500g; All batches up to and including Best Before Date 06/10/17

Consumers are advised to discard any of these products and to be aware of the symptoms of Hepatitis A infection in the 15-50 days after consuming the berries.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has confirmed that the risk of exposure is very low but cannot be excluded. For any person who has consumed the affected products, Dr Lester has advised people, parents and carers to look for symptoms 15 to 50 days after consumption.

Symptoms include fever, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark urine and yellow skin and eyes (jaundice). Symptoms may last for several weeks but full recovery usually occurs. Please consult DHHS's [Better Health Channel](#) for more information.

Any person who is confirmed to have hepatitis A will be followed up closely and will be provided with further advice through the Department of Health and Human Services. If a person develops any of these symptoms, medical advice through their local GP should be immediately sought.

Please check any frozen berries and discard those which have been recalled. They can be returned to the place of purchase for a refund.

Further enquiries can be made by calling the Patties' Foods Hotline, 1800 650 069, between 7am and 9pm AEDT

Keep Well and Stay Safe
Rosemary Van Aperen
School Nurse