

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

20th February 2014, 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. Thank you to all families who attended the Meet the Teacher Evening recently at both Campuses. This is a reminder to all families at the Junior Campus that the Welcome BBQ will be held tonight from 6.15pm. This is a great opportunity for the students and family members to catch up with friends and meet new people.



Curriculum Day – Monday 24th February

This is a reminder that Monday 24th 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 2014 will be on Tuesday 10th June and Monday 17th November.

Parent Payments

A letter was sent home last week 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.

School Captains and Vice Captains

Dylan and Georgia are the School Captains for 2014. For the first time, School Vice-Captains have also been appointed. Congratulations to Bayley and Amber.

All captains and their parents 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.



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
Thursday 20th February 2014	Junior Campus Welcome BBQ @ 6.15pm
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

Autism Accreditation

Concord School became the first school to have achieved full accreditation through AMAZE (formerly Autism Victoria) late in 2013. This was a rigorous process through which our school had to demonstrate that we met a series of standards relating to providing processes, resources and programs to best meet the need of students on the autism spectrum. This was done not only through us providing documentation but AMAZE also conducted a series of site visits. While our school is not specifically for students on the Autism Spectrum, strategies such as providing structure and communication cues are beneficial to all students.

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.

From 1st March 2014, new laws will 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.

Student Accident Insurance Arrangements

Parents are reminded that the DEECD 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.

Student Internet and E-mail

At Concord School, as part of the technology program, students access the internet and many use email as part of their educational program. Concord School believes that it is important that your child has access to and learns how to use the internet safely and appropriately.

As a part of this program, students will be educated in safety and ethical issues in dealing with the internet. It is also important that families are involved in discussions about these issues with their children. Some of these issues include: inappropriate web sites, email and chat conduct, exchanging personal details and plagiarism/copyright. When using the internet, there are dangers and it is possible for students to access inappropriate information. Concord School has taken every reasonable measure to protect students from accessing unsuitable sites. The students are only permitted to access specific sites nominated by their teacher and under supervision.

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Hardial.

Hardial has returned to school in 2014 with a huge smile on his face and an even bigger attitude towards his learning. He has settled in to new routines and is finding the daily learning experiences fun and exciting. Hardial is always first to put up his hand when answering questions and giving ideas for class discussions.

He is a great role model for his peers and always leads the way with his behaviour.

Hardial made a great puppet show on the Three Billy Goats Gruff and was really excited to share it with the class. He has enjoyed activities in the Discovery Centre during Science and Literacy sessions with PDR and is keen to know what we are doing next time.

Well Done on a great start to the year and receiving the Principal's Award.

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

Jason Coningsby
Principal

President's Message

School Council met for the first time this year on Monday 17th February.

The agenda items that were discussed at the meeting were:

School Council Elections
Family and Friends Association Update
External use of Discovery Centre
School Contract Buses
Parent Payments 2014
Concord School Café
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.

Kath Moore has re-nominated and is continuing on School Council.
Kerrily Lamers is joining School Council replacing Karen Overall.

Fran Hoad has re-nominated and is continuing on School Council. The following parents have nominated and are joining the School Council: Kylie Lewin (mother of Ryan T) and Narelle Smith (mother of Emelia). Tammy Johnston (mother of Cooper) is filling a Casual Vacancy on School Council. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Kerrily, Kylie, Narelle and Tammy onto the School Council. I look forward to working with them, and the rest of the School Council, to improve the educational opportunities for the students of Concord School.

Thank you very much to Karen Overall, Ninette Young and Sanaa Shah for their contribution to the School Council over their two year term. A very special thank you goes to John Pertile who served on the School Council for the 13 years that his daughter Kelly was at the school.

Family and Friends Association

The Family and Friends Association (FFA) are holding their next meeting at the Grimshaw Campus on Monday, 3rd March, at 1.30pm. Parents/carers in the FFA find that it is a non-threatening way in which to meet other parents/carers while supporting the education of their children.

"Working together for our children"

Mark Lancaster
School Council President

Assistant Principals' Report

School Captains

As you have already read Dylan and Georgia are the School Captains for 2014. For the first time, School Vice-Captains have also been appointed. Congratulations to Bayley and Amber from the Assistant Principals.



All 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 through the SRC and other school staff.

School Representative Council (SRC)

Each class in Secondary, Pathways and Transition have a rep on the SRC. They meet several times each term with Colin Simpson AP and discuss how the school could be made better, raise funds for community courses outside of the school and organise 'Out-of Uniform days'. SRC students will be elected next week.

School Wellbeing Coordinator

Violet Farah joins Sharon Ouliaris as part of our wellbeing team this year. Violet comes from Roxburgh College where she held a similar position and has quickly established herself in her new role at Concord School. Please speak to you class teacher, section leader or Colin Simpson (AP) first if you feel your child needs some extra support from Violet in order to assist them to do well at school.



Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

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

Canteen News

The Canteen operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays!
(at the Grimshaw campus only)

Please remember to have your child's name and room number clearly marked on the outside of the bag, along with the order and correct monies if possible. Price lists are available from the main office.

Ann Park - Canteen Manager

Family and Friends Association

FFA met on Monday last week and a New Committee for 2014 was elected. Congratulations to our new President Antoinette Ribchester. Julie Alberti will continue as Vice President, Viv Butler as Treasurer and Sue Gibb as Secretary. We have four members returning to the General Committee and welcome 2 new members.

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. Hot Cross Buns will be \$1 each and there are 3 flavours to choose from. Details about the Entertainment Books will be sent home soon.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 3rd March at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at Grimshaw Campus. New members are always welcome.

Sue Gibb
Secretary



STUDENTS BUS TRAVEL

We are indeed fortunate to now have eight buses provided by the DEECD for our students to travel upon to and from Concord School. The majority of our students who catch these buses are very well behaved and always demonstrate the school value of respect. From time to time however, some students make poor choices when travelling on the buses. It is an expectation that students travelling on the buses will:

- Speak quietly
- Remain in their seat
- Get along with others

The bus supervisors do a tremendous job each day ensuring student safety on the bus journey. When a bus supervisor speaks to a student or parent/carer about unacceptable behaviour, they also report this behaviour to the school. Initially students may be given a warning, but if their behaviour does not improve they may be removed from the bus for a short time as a consequence. Students who are engaging in behaviour which may jeopardise their safety or the safety of the other students may be removed from the bus immediately.

We also expect that our students who travel independently on the public bus system demonstrate exemplary behaviour and the school value of respect. This is particularly important as these students are representing Concord School in the wider community.

We appreciate parent/carer support and cooperation in this matter as we need to ensure all students have an enjoyable and safe journey to and from school each day.



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.

FREE
FOR AMAZE
MEMBERS.
NON-MEMBERS
\$20



Family Information Sessions

Venue: Optometrists Association Building, 28 Drummond Street, Carlton (2 doors up from Amaze)
Register at link below. For enquiries contact Pia on 03 9657 1616 or counsellor@amaze.org.au



ASD and School Supports

This session is for parents wanting to learn more about supports within the school system, ways to maintain good communication with the school and how to successfully advocate for their child.

Who is this for?

This session is suitable for parents of children at primary or secondary school.

Wednesday
Feb 12
Day: 10am-12pm
Evening: 6-8pm



Mental Health in the School Years

Depression and anxiety are commonly experienced by individuals on the spectrum. Learn more about these mental health conditions, the early indicators, and what you can do as a parent to support your child.

Who is this for?

This session is suitable for parents of school-aged children and adolescents with Asperger's syndrome or High Functioning Autism

Thursday
Mar 13
Day: 10am-12pm
Evening: 6-8pm



Mental Health and Wellbeing for Adults

Learn about the warning signs for depression and anxiety, some strategies to help you manage your mental health, and information on how to seek professional assistance if required.

Who is this for?

This session is specifically for adults aged 18+ with ASD. Numbers are limited for this session.

Monday
Apr 14
Day: 10am-12pm
Evening: 6-8pm

Bookings essential. For more information and to register, visit

www.amaze.org.au/familyinfo

special little people seminars

Strategies to use for children with an
Autism Spectrum Disorder/Asperger's syndrome

"How to best support Primary School students"



**Dr. Sophie
Banfield**
Psychologist

Stress & Anxiety



**Stephanie
Crawford**
Speech Therapist

Pragmatics &
Theory of Mind



Angelica Rose
Drama
(Social Skills)

Handling Teasing
& Bullying



Kate Vaarzon-Morel
Occupational
Therapist

Sensory Processing



**Christine Chalmers
Manton**
Behaviour Analyst

Visuals & Emotional
Regulation



Amanda Curtis
Author
(ASD Classroom
Resource)

Disclosing an ASD

Date: Wednesday, 26th March 2014

Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm
Includes morning tea and lunch

Venue: Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
Cnr Bell Str. & St. Georges Road
Preston 3072

Cost: Early bird registration \$135 per person
(by 5th March 2014)
Standard registration \$145 per person
(after 5th March 2014)

***This seminar is for teachers, principals, parents,
integration aides, professionals/service providers,
university students studying in the field. Other
family members are welcome to attend, after all, we
are all in this together!***

Visit our website for further information
and to register or go straight to
www.trybooking.com/57216

www.speciallittlepeopleseminars.com

***...there were lots of practical strategies without
bombarding me with gloomy statistics and
figures. I came away upbeat and not
overwhelmed as I have done on many occasions
of going to seminars/workshops."
Mel S. from Croydon, Victoria.***

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 2014

Time: Saturdays 11am-12 noon.

Cost: \$180.00

To register your child
email David at: doc@docfootballacademy.com or ring 0402 520 888

Check out our website: www.docfootball.com

See us on Facebook, go to: DOC Football Academy

Boys and Girls

5 to 12 Years for all abilities

To register go to www.aflauskick.com.au

Add in postcode in center locator (top right hand corner of screen)

Select club to join Cost is \$70.00 each child receives a registration pack includes football, pump, drink bottle and other afl items.

Club days and times vary some are held Friday night others on Saturday or Sunday mornings.

