

Principal's Report and News

concord.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.concordsch.vic.edu.au

411 Grimshaw Street, Bundoora
3083
PO Box No. 90 Bundoora 3083

Grimshaw Campus:
T (03) 9467 3972
F (03) 9467 8018

Junior Campus:
T (03) 9432 7978
F (03) 9432 4593

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

6th March 2014, Newsletter No.3

At Concord School, our students generally display high standards of behaviour. The staff have high expectations of our students who are supported through comprehensive social competencies programs and resourcing. When people tour our school they often speak of the calm and structured learning environment they experience.

Suspensions are rarely required at our school but the DEECD have recently released the following new guidelines.

Expulsion and Suspension Guidelines

Every member of a school community has the right to feel safe at school. As a parent or carer you should be confident that you are sending your child into a safe and supportive learning environment. Suspension and expulsion are serious disciplinary measures and are used as a last resort in managing a student's behaviour. As of 1st March 2014 changes have been made to how suspension and expulsion processes work in government schools.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion have also been updated to better enable principals to prevent and respond to behavioural incidents that may compromise the health, wellbeing and safety of staff and students.

The grounds for suspension and expulsion can be found at:

<https://education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/participation/Pages/discipline.aspx>

FAQs for parents:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/faqs.aspx>

Presentation Ball

The Concord School Presentation Ball is a highlight of each student's schooling. This annual event for Year 12 students will be held at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre on Friday 15th August, 2014. Last year was the first year of the Presentation Ball with a slight change of format from what was previously known as the Debutante Ball (Deb Ball). The Presentation Ball is exactly the same as the previous Deb Ball except that students do not have partners and perform a group dance as individuals. The reason for this is that there is a small ratio of girls compared to boys in Year 12 so it is not possible for students to have 'partners'. Last year's event was hugely successful and I encourage all Year 12 students and their families to become involved.

Personal Possessions Brought to School

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, electronic games, calculators, toys, musical instruments, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

The DEECD does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. Staff and students are discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

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 10th March 2014	Labour Day - School closed
Friday 4th April 2014	Last day of term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal



Medication at School

For the safety of students, it is important that the correct procedures are followed regarding the administration of medication to students.

Parents/carers are requested to read the following information carefully: Concord School staff will NOT administer medication unless it is sent to school in the **original packaging**. The medication must be supported by specific written instruction from the medical practitioner or pharmacist including the name of the student, dosage and time to be administered (original medications bottle or container should provide this information).

Principal's Award

The Principal's Award goes to Jarrod.

Jarrod has developed into a responsible, caring, hardworking young man whose sense of humour and positive attitude make him a pleasure to be around.

Jarrod is an extremely capable student and his enthusiastic attitude towards learning is reflected in his excellent results in all areas of the curriculum.

Jarrod is cooperative and kind, and his willingness to persevere with challenging situations is a credit to his maturity and sensitivity.

Congratulations Jarrod!

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

Jason Coningsby
Principal

Assistant Principals' Report

What a fortnight we have had at Concord School. On the 21st February the Junior Section had their annual family barbeque. It was a great opportunity for all of us to meet the families of our wonderful Junior students. Everyone had a terrific time with the feast, the opportunity for social

interaction, tattoos and the jumping castle the favoured items from the evening. To the delight of all attendees, Colin's dog Hank made a special guest appearance. Hank was responsibly walked around the yard for the entire evening providing yet another highlight. We all thank the Junior Section staff for setting up, organising and even cooking to make sure it was a well-run and enjoyable evening for all.

Middle Section Camping Program

This week our Middle Section students in MSP were excited to travel to Ocean Grove for their camp. We are all hopeful that the weather remains lovely and the students get to explore the beautiful Ocean Grove beach. We all await their return to hear the students recall the various adventures that they will have. The Concord camping experience is such a valuable occurrence for our students. The life skills that students gain and the high expectations that they live up to while on camps is a credit to the staff and students that attend.

Leaving Children in the Car

Despite a recent drop in temperatures, parents are still urged to be aware of the dangers of leaving children alone in motor vehicles, so if you need to get out of the car, even for a moment, always take your child with you. *No Exceptions. No Excuses.*

A recent survey conducted by the Victorian Coalition Government found that despite sweltering through one of the hottest summers on record, one in three parents admit to leaving their children alone in a parked car. The research also demonstrated most parents underestimate how quickly the temperature inside a parked car can rise and the devastating impact this has on a child.

Even if the outside temperature is 30 degrees the temperature inside can reach up to 50 degrees in a matter of minutes. The Victorian Government is reminding all parents travelling with a child that if you need to get out of the car, even for just one minute, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

Kirrily Lamers, Colin Simpson and Kath Moore
Assistant Principals

Family and Friends Association

Hot Cross Buns

Order forms will go home next week and will be due back on Friday 28th March. Buns will be \$1 each and come in 3 varieties. Orders will be distributed on Thursday 3rd April.

Entertainment Books

We are still waiting for the Entertainment Books to arrive and will let you know when they do. Books will be \$65 with \$13 going to Concord school.

Mother's Day Raffle

Donations of new items are being sought to assist with our Mother's Day Raffle and donations are greatly appreciated.

Committee Meeting

The Committee of the Family and Friends Association met on Monday 3rd March and agreed to contribute \$600 to each Section to assist with the following items:

- Juniors – contribution towards their production later in the year
- Middle – purchase of 3 heavy duty scooters
- Secondary - contribution towards the Secondary Spectacular
- Pathways – contribution towards their Zoo excursion for the whole section
- Transition – Table Tennis Table
- Art Department – contribution towards a Clay Bin

Thank you to everyone who has donated funds to FFA fundraisers, your contributions are greatly valued.

Next meeting is being held on Monday 31st March at 1.30pm in the Conference Room at the Grimshaw Campus. New members are always welcome.

Sue Gibb
Secretary
Email: sue.g@internode.on.net

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



Community News

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.***



wow factor

holiday program



City of
Whittlesea



Who can join the wow factor holiday program?

This program is open to young people aged 13-17 years who live or go to school in the City of Whittlesea. The program specifically caters for young people with a mild to moderate disability.

What to bring?

Day Trip

- Comfortable clothing suitable for outdoor activities and appropriate footwear
- Bathers and towel
- Drink Bottle
- Any medication that requires administering during the day as identified on your personal information form
- Any changes of clothes that might be required - a raincoat in case of wet weather
- Companion Card
- Personal items. Please be aware that anything lost or damaged during the activity is a participant's own risk

Overnight Camp

- Comfortable clothing suitable for outdoor activities, evening entertainment and appropriate footwear
- Bathers
- Personal toiletries including two towels
- Any medication that requires administering during the camp as identified on your personal information form
- Any changes of clothes that might be required - a raincoat in case of wet weather
- Companion Card
- Personal items - please be aware that anything lost or damaged during the activity is a participant's own risk
- Sleeping bag and pillow

YMCA of Whittlesea Disability Services staff

Our staff are well trained and very experienced in working with young people with a range of physical, cognitive and sensory abilities as well as behavioural issues. The program is funded to provide a staff ratio of 2 staff members to every 5 young people and we deliver individualised support to make sure each young person gets the most out of every activity.

How to make a booking?

Step 1 Complete and return attached application by **Monday 24 March 2014** to:

YMCA Whittlesea Disability Services
WOW Factor, 33 Morang Drive, Mill Park 3082

Step 2 Confirmation of enrolment will be provided prior to program commencing.

Step 3 Payment for the program will be required to secure your booking by **Monday 7 April 2014**

Wow factor is proudly supported by the City of Whittlesea in partnership with YMCA of Whittlesea.



City of
Whittlesea



Siblings in Sync



Special Needs Access Program for Families

AGES
5 - 10

Siblings in Sync is a unique and innovative school holiday program for children with disabilities and their siblings.

It aims to:

- Foster relationships between siblings
- Provide positive shared experiences
- Give children the opportunity to express themselves
- Communicate with their sibling through creative music-making

The session is run by two Registered Music Therapists and will be tailored to suit the individual needs of participants within a small group.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- Create music together
- Use music technology (including The Special Access Kit)

A music therapist will be in contact with you prior to your session commencing to obtain relevant information in order to plan for individual needs.

All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the sessions.

Venue: Arts Centre Melbourne, Digital Learning Hub

Times: 11am

Dates: Tuesday 8 April or Thursday 10 April

Duration: 60 mins

Cost: \$25 per family

Bookings:

For more information or to book, phone (03) 9281 8194, or email snap@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Thank you to the generous donors who support our programs.

Anonymous
Miss Betty Amsden OAM
Mrs Barbara Haynes
The Pratt Foundation

Music Therapy is the planned and creative use of music to attain and maintain health and wellbeing. It may address physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals within a therapeutic relationship. Music Therapy is a registered allied health profession.