Neerim District Secondary College
News and Views
November 25 2016

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IRON AND CLAY

Our Sponsors

We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors for their support throughout this year. With your continued generosity and commitment we have been able to improve the educational opportunities available to students. We strongly encourage our parents and the wider community to please support these wonderful local businesses that sponsor our school so well.
**Principal’s Report**

**Step Up Program Years 8 - 12**

I would like to remind all parents and students that attendance at Step Up is compulsory. This is an extremely valuable program which seeks to prepare students for the following year’s work. Step Up also allows teachers to assess students’ abilities ahead of the teachers planning for the 2017 program.

**Peer Support and VCE Camp**

Please note that these events are also compulsory, if you haven’t done so; please return your student permission forms to the office asap.

**School Captains 2017**

Congratulations to our School Captains: Loki Bromilow, Andy Entsch, Rosie De Kock, and Charlie Ryan. This year the students were required to go through an application and interview process, there acceptance speeches will be presented at our next school assembly. We had a good number of applications and the quality of the applications was extremely high. Well done to everyone who was involved. I would especially like to thank our STAG student representative on the panel, Molly McConachy for giving up her time to be part of this process.

**Family Contact Details**

Next year, the Learning Coach will be contacting families directly. They will also utilise email. If you are unsure whether your details with us are correct, or if we have all your information, please ring the office to clarify and update your information.

**School Council 2017**

Next year will see the retirement of Christine Nobels-Skinner from our School Council. Christine has been an avid supporter of the College and an extremely active member of Parents and Friends. She will be greatly missed!

Consequently, we will have at least one vacancy for a parent representative on School Council. I would urge parents to consider volunteering their time in this valuable way. Parent input is vital to our functioning as a school, especially if we wish our College to represent the views and needs of the community. We have many exciting projects ahead of us: school beautification, program development, and curriculum enrichment plans, we also have a bit of a laugh at our meetings!

If you think you might be interested, please contact me at the school for more information.

**Vaya Dauphin**  
College Principal

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**Dates to Remember**

- **November**  
  - Friday 25: Step up & Curriculum Planning - Student Free Day
  - Monday 28 - Friday 9 December: 2017 Year 8 - 12 Step up Program

- **December**  
  - Thursday 1 - Friday 2: 2017 Year 12 Camp
  - Thursday 1 - Friday 2: 2017 Year 11 Peer Support Camp
  - Monday 5: Transition Day
  - Tuesday 6: State-wide Transition
  - Tuesday 13: Presentation Night
  - Monday 12 - Thursday 15: Activity Week
  - Friday 16 - Monday 19: Environmental clean up days

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**Sponsor of the Week**

**Ying’s Krua Thai Restaurant and Take Away**

This week’s winner is Emma Field of Year 9, well done Emma.

A certificate for goods and services to the value of $30 is on its way to you, courtesy of Ying’s Krua Thai.
GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a good news postcard: Kyle Bright, Spencer McNolty, Shae Maxwell, Adam White & Mitchell Dawson.

PBS LINK IS HERE!

Don’t forget to register details of receiving a postcard by ringing NDSC on 5628 1455 or 5628 1201 after hours to go in the draw to win a community sponsored prize.

PBS IS A MARATHON. NOT A SPRINT.

AAA Award

The AAA award rewards consistent effort and citizenship in our students and recognizes the contribution that they make to the life of the College.

Over 25 students have received awards in 2016. Each of these students did something special to make the school experience better for someone else.

Thank you all and thank you to the Walter Haines Foundation for its ongoing support.

2017 UNIFORM

As we prepare for the coming school year, it is timely that we remind all families of the uniform policy and we ask that 2017 starts in the best manner possible. Plain black shoes, white or grey socks are required.

The full selection (available from Beleza) is there for your child to use, to meet needs of temperature and comfort.

Asthma Students

The Asthma Foundation of Victoria in consultation with the Department of Education, Catholic Schools & Independent Schools, have developed children’s service and school specific Asthma Action Plans. This is to meet the needs of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, the Education & Training Reform regulations 2007 and the Schools Policy Advisory Guide.

The Victorian Asthma Action Plans, have been developed to assist staff members identify the students asthma signs and symptoms including their severity and what action needs to be taken in regards to administering the child’s asthma reliever medication.

All students who are currently listed on our system as having Asthma have been sent a letter along with the above explanation. It is important that you read what is now required of parents to do with obtaining these Action Plans. Ideally we would like to have the forms returned to us by December 20th 2016 or by the first day of Term in 2017.

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A big thanks to all of our generous sponsors for their support throughout the year. Please support the wonderful local businesses that sponsor our school so well.
**PRESENTATION EVENING**

Presentation Evening is Tuesday 13th December at 7pm. It is a chance to celebrate student success for the year and see the Year 12s receive their certificates of graduation.

The school magazine will be available to pick up. Light refreshments will be offered after the presentation. Everyone is welcome.

**PRESENTATION NIGHT - HELP NEEDED**

Parents and Friends have been asked to provide supper for presentation night on Tuesday 13th December. If anyone would be able to bring a plate, it would be greatly appreciated.

P&F will also be drawing our annual Christmas Raffle on the night.

If anyone could donate something to go in it, it can be left at the office by Monday 12th December.

Thank you for your support.

**PAST STUDENT – CRYSTAL PETSCHACK**

Former NDSC Class of 2013 has recently completed her Bachelor of Visual Arts at Federation University.

Here is Crystal with her work “Violet” at the final year exhibition at the Switchback Gallery.

**NDSC TEAM READY FOR THE GREAT VICTORIAN BIKE RIDE**

A team of five riders - Joshua Furneaux, Jed Cumming, Kyle Clarke, Harry Liefman and Tommy Vanos - set off on Saturday 26 November with Mr Vincent and Peter Liefman on the 520 km Great Victorian Bike ride. The ride will start in Halls Gap in the Grampians and then travel through the Grampian and down to the coast at the Twelve Apostles. It will then wind its way along the Great Ocean Road before finishing in Geelong on Sunday 4th December.

The team have spent the last two months training. This has involved bush rides at Rokeby during the week and longer rides from Darnum on Sundays.

Apart from personal contributions and a barbeque at IGA two weeks ago, this ride would not have been possible without the generous support of the Bendigo Bank Youth Foundation and we thank Sue Allen for assisting us with our application. We are looking forward to a fantastic and challenging adventure.

**PARENTS & FRIENDS SECOND HAND BOOK & UNIFORM SALE**

Tuesday 6th December 2016 at NDSC starting 9.00am – 11.00am.

No early buyers please!!!

Thanks to the parents who have volunteered their help.

Parents & Friends will sell preloved school books and uniforms on behalf of the school community. Books that are in very good condition will be sold at half price while those in worse condition will sell for about a third of the original cost. Parents wishing to price their own books may do so, but should realise that books that are overpriced may not sell. A small percentage of the sale price is commission to Parents & Friends for the service provided. Items must be left at the school office between Monday November 28th - Monday 5th December. Books brought in on the morning of the sale will NOT be accepted.

Each item must be accompanied by a selling slip – available from the office. All monies are payable on the day by cash / cheque / EFTPOS. Please bring a plastic bag.

Past Student – Crystal Petschack

Former NDSC Class of 2013 has recently completed her Bachelor of Visual Arts at Federation University.

Here is Crystal with her work “Violet” at the final year exhibition at the Switchback Gallery.
Day 1 Gippsland Lakes, our final trip.

We met at Rubicon and spent some time collecting the gear we needed. We then drove to Roseneath Caravan Park on Lake Wellington, via the Rosedale bakery (a perennial favourite).

After setting up our tents we had a look at the Lake, the wind had whipped up some big waves, so we drove around to Holland’s Landing, using the sheltered waters to practise our paddling and capsize/recovery drills.

Day 2

The wind was still a problem and after some discussion, we decided to pack the boats; first pack usually takes 2 hours, (I think this group took 2.5)! We then had to wait, the Bureau of Meteorology had the wind listed as dropping in the afternoon. However by 2:00 pm there was little change, so we unpacked the boats and set our tents back up. We then went for a play in the big waves, paddling out a short distance and getting washed back in; after a couple of capsizes and some good experience building we called it a day.
Day 3

After a much quicker pack up we headed off, the waves though still present had subsided somewhat and as we paddled to the entrance of McLennan Strait, we were treated to a pod of dolphins cruising by.

We paddled through the strait into Lake Victoria and on to Storm Point for lunch. After lunch, we paddled across Lake Victoria to Sperm Whale Head, with the students energy levels flagging we decided to set up camp. We had covered a lot of distance, I think the furthest any group has paddled in a day!

Day 4

With the weather predicted to become extremely windy that evening, we made plans to finish our trip at Eagle Point or Metung. So we headed for Paynesville, the dolphins again showing up for a morning hello. After lunch, Josh Furneaux and Jake tressed us to an impromptu demonstration of their capsize skills, after being distracted by a large cruiser complete with girls on the deck. It was good to stand back and watch the group, and with out any input they worked together to help them back in the boat and to pump the water out.

After a look at the flash houses around the canals in Paynesville and with Heath in the lead, we headed towards Eagle Point. We had decided that the long haul to Metung was too much. So after a bumpy ride across Lake King we arrived, and began the long process of cleaning the boats and sorting the gear.

Day 5

The wind began to howl throughout the night, and the students were struggling to hold onto their tents as they packed them up in the morning. After a look at the Mitchell River silt jetty from the Bluff, we drove to Lakes Entrance. With a big feed of chips under our belt, we walked across the footbridge to the entrance. This is where we bid farewell to the water as it heads out to sea. The wind was whipping up foam and spray across the entrance and we were treated to watching a fishing boat skilfully negotiate their way in.

A big thank to Derek and Michelle from Rubicon for providing excellent leadership and instruction, ensuring a successful camp and a fantastic learning experience.