Neerim District Secondary College

News and Views

February 19, 2016

PO Box 18 Neerim South, Vic 3831 Phone: (03) 5628 1455 Fax: 5628 1629 Email: neerim.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au Web Address: www.ndsc.vic.edu.au

NDSC SWIMMING CARNIVAL - CONGRATULATIONS TO STRZELECKI

Kurnai came into the College Swimming Carnival on Tuesday confident of defending their title from the previous year. Strzelecki, led strongly by house captains Brendan Gourley and Tori O’Connor encouraged their team to swim as many events as possible, this willingness to have a go allowed Strzelecki to win the carnival. After a great day of competition and team support it came down to the final few events between Strzelecki and Kurnai.

The result was in favour of Strzelecki, with Kurnai second, Monash third and Tarago in fourth position. Age Group Champions were Amy Jones and Jack de Kock in the 15 & Under Age groups and Tori O’Connor and Sebastian O’Connor in the Over 15 Age Group. Well done to all students who represented their houses on the day!

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**

**School Council Elections 2016**

**Information for Parents**

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- **A mandated elected DET employee category** – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The Principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years.

What to do if you would like to stand for election?

Collect a nomination form from the school office and either self-nominate yourself or get someone to nominate you as a candidate (Parent category). This process needs to be completed in the timeframe listed below.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the school office or upon request can be posted or emailed.

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**Notice of Election and Call for Nominations**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Neerim District Secondary College.

Self-Nomination and Nomination forms are available from the school office, or upon request can be posted or emailed and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on Friday, 26\(^{th}\) February 2016.

The ballot will close at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 15\(^{th}\) March 2016.

Following the close of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted on the school’s website and via Compass. The terms of office, membership categories and number of position in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2016 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2018.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted on the school’s website [www.ndsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.ndsc.vic.edu.au)

Vaya Cross
Principal

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**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION PROCESS AND TIMETABLE**

**NEERIM DISTRICT SECONDARY COLLEGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Friday, 19(^{th}) February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Friday, 26(^{th}) February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 List of candidates and nominators will be posted</td>
<td>Wednesday, 2(^{nd}) March 2016 – via the website <a href="http://www.ndsc.vic.gov.au">www.ndsc.vic.gov.au</a> &amp; Compass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Ballot papers will be distributed</td>
<td>Friday, 4(^{th}) March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Close of ballot</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15(^{th}) March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Vote count</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15(^{th}) March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Declaration of poll</td>
<td>Tuesday, 15(^{th}) March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16(^{th}) March 2016</td>
</tr>
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</table>
GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS

Congratulations to the following students who received a good news postcard: Blake Freeman (2), Carl Garrett (2), Ruby McKissack-Broad, Joe Richardson (2), Jake Snelling, Bethany Sayburn, Lawrence Barford, Cassidy Holland (2), Indiana Tame, Lucy Liefman, Lauren Potts, Jackson Saunders (2), Kyle Bright, Thomas Pollard, Jesse Darcy, Dayna Triffitt, Grayson McNolty, Molly McConachy, Lucas Flegg (2), Rhys Peterson, Maddison Sanders, Hayley Stringer, Rachel Eyles, Joshua Furneaux, Ryan Crestani, Flynn Pallot, Jack de Kock, Maddilyn Jeffries, Isabella McDonald-Oldham, Mitchell Dawson, Jai Atkins, Matthew Norris, Shakira Kimm, Jacob Findlater, Jack Mahoney, Tsing Kisielnicki, Dakota Dawson, Chloe Cox & Jade Wilson.

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Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23: Year 7 Immunizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23: Intermediate Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24: Year 7 Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25: Year 11 Outdoor &amp; Environmental Education - Snorkel/Surf Day</td>
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<td>Thursday 25: CEA 9 UrbanKnights to State Library &amp; City Circle Tram Navigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 28: VCAL Billy Cart Racing at Upwey</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 15: Year 11 Outdoor &amp; Environmental Education - Cycling Day Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 21 - Wednesday 23: Year 7 Camp</td>
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<td>Wednesday 23 - Thursday 24: Parent Student Teacher Interviews</td>
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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.

This week’s winner is Amy Jones of Year 8. Nominated by Mrs Cross, she is proving to be a great all-rounder with top efforts in her classes and in the swimming sports. Congratulations Amy, a cheque will be heading your way shortly, courtesy of the Walter Haines Foundation.

Sponsor of the Week

STEWY DAVIS AUTOMOTIVE

(formally Mark’s Auto)

All mechanical and electrical repairs with a professional and personal touch.

This week’s winner is Mitchell Dawson of Year 8. Well done Mitchell, a $30 iTunes card is on its way to you.
**NDSC Breakfast Club**

Breakfast Club in the conference room will be open from 8.15am for early arrivers and bus travelers.

Toast, some fruit and juice will be provided for students to have something to eat before school.

Breakfast is a very important part of the day! Eating a good, nutritious breakfast means our bodies and minds are ready to learn and make the most of the day!

**Study and Homework Catch Up Sessions on a Tuesday afternoon**

We encourage all students to come along to the homework/study catch up session each Tuesday from 3:30pm – 4:30pm. This time gives students a chance to get help with any work they are struggling with, or a structured time each week to complete their homework or an additional study. Multiple teachers will be in attendance each week to assist any students whom attend.

**Senior Cricket**

The Year 11 and 12 team ventured down to Marist Sion College in the first round of senior cricket. “Marist” batted first and after 20 overs set a large total of 5/252 on a quick ground. NDSC chased the total hard all day, and batted extremely well, but fell a bit short with a score of 4/183 after 20 overs.

Well done to Mitch Sayburn who made 89 runs, and Nathan Ryrie who was NDSC’s best bowler on the day.

**Immunizations**

Reminder to parents that immunizations for Year 7’s will be taking place next Tuesday 23rd February. Please make sure your cards are all filled out & delivered to the school or the Baw Baw Shire. If you do not have a card please contact the school for a replacement.

Thanks
Lee Pattinson - First Aid Co-ordinator

**Parents & Friends**

**AGM and Election meeting**

The Parents & Friends are having their election meeting on Thursday 25th February at 2.00pm followed by a meeting.

The Parents & Friends are a group of dedicated people who are always looking for new members. They support the school in many ways including fundraising and organising functions. It’s a great way to be a part of NDSC and help make a difference. Come along for a cuppa, cake and a chat.

Any queries please contact Jenni on 0421 696 779.

**Conveyance Allowance**

If you are on a Healthcare card, and need to transport students more than 4.8 km to school or a bus service and we are your closest school, you might be eligible. Contact Mr Nicolson for further details.

**PTV Concession Cards**

Please be aware that School issued ID cards do not suffice for concession travel. If you need to obtain a concession card for PTV travel please visit ptv.vic.gov.au for details.

**Our Sponsors**

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.
**Lost Property**

All manner of items turn up in lost property, the most common ones are jumpers and jackets.

Please ensure that these items are marked with your son’s/daughter’s name so that they can be returned straight away.

**Peer Support**

Peer support sessions have commenced for 2016. The Year 11 Peer Support leaders work with the Year 7 students to help mentor them in adjusting to Secondary School. The Peer Support sessions continue throughout Term 1, and the Peer Support leaders will also attend the Year 7 camp at the end of the term.

**Expressions of Interest For China Tour**

This year the College is planning a trip to China in October. If you think this is something that you would like to take part in, please let the college know or come and see Mrs Guerin down in the kitchen. We will run an information session soon, so look out for future

**Year 7 BBQ and Welcome Session**

On Wednesday 10th February, the Year 7 students enjoyed a study session and welcome BBQ. The students began the afternoon playing sport with Mr. Biffin before they completed some study and homework in E2. Parents were welcome from 5pm to enjoy a BBQ with the students and Year 7 staff members before a short information session was held.

Thank you to all of the families who came along to the session, and to the staff members who attended and assisted on the evening!

**Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

Parents and families who have a valid concession card may be eligible to apply for an allowance to use towards the cost of camps, sports and excursions. The annual amount for a secondary school student is $225. To apply, parents or caregivers will need to complete an application form which they can obtain from the general office, and present their valid concession/health care card.

The money is forwarded to the school in Term 1, and is then credited against your child’s account. It can only be used for camps, sports and excursions. Any funds not used this year will carry over to the following year.

If you have not already submitted an applications for the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) for this year please do so as soon as possible, forms can be obtained from the office if you require one.

**Year 7 Camp**

Year 7 students will be receiving the paperwork about Year 7 camp this week. The camp will be held at Nayook Outdoor Education Centre from Monday 21st March - Wednesday 23rd March.

Please return the forms and monies to the office as soon as possible. The cost of the camp will be $100.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Locklier or Mrs Hopkins.
CareerNews No1; 11.02.16

This fortnightly Newsletter will keep you in touch with career events, expos, courses, Open Days and so on. Attending career events will assist you to make wise career decisions. Students who do research, attend events, collect information, and talk to others about careers frequently find it easier to make their own decisions.

1. WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES UPON LEAVING SCHOOL?

One option is university study. Research shows that those who have a university degree are (on average) less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more during their lifetimes than those who do not. Others will want to complete a vocational course (VET) like hospitality, childcare or graphic design.

Another significant group will complete an apprenticeship or traineeship in areas such as plumbing, carpentry, mechanics, refrigeration or office administration.

Those entering employment with no study plans need to understand that their career options and earning capacity are likely to be limited in the long term. Qualifications are VITAL.

Thinking of University? There are nine in Victoria:

- Australian Catholic University (ACU) has campuses in Fitzroy and Ballarat. It is a small but growing national university, publicly funded, open to those of any or no faith.
- Deakin University’s largest campus is in Burwood, but it also has campuses in Geelong and Warrnambool. It is a large university offering a very broad range of degrees.
- Federation University has campuses in Ballarat and in Gippsland. It is a fairly small university serving two rural communities.
- La Trobe University’s main campus in in Bundoora, but it also has campuses in Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Mildura and Shepparton. It is a large university.
- Monash University is very large; its main campus is in Clayton, but it also has campuses in Berwick, Caulfield, and Frankston (Peninsula Campus) (also in Malaysia and Prato in Italy).
- RMIT is a large dual-sector institution (a VET provider as well) in the City, with other campuses in Brunswick and Bundoora.
- Swinburne is a dual-sector institution with a university campus in Hawthorn, and VET campuses in the city, Croydon, Hawthorn and Wantirna.
- The University of Melbourne is the oldest University, its main campus being in Parkville. It also has specialised campuses in Burnley, Creswick, Dookie, Shepparton, Southbank and Werribee.
- Victoria University’s main campus is in Footscray, but it also has campuses in the city, Melton, St Albans, Sunshine and Werribee. VU is a provider of higher education and VET courses.

NOTE: Charles Sturt University is sometimes listed with Victorian Universities. It is a NSW university with a campus on the Victoria/NZW border (Albury-Wodonga).

There are many providers of vocational education (VET) such as Bendigo, Box Hill Institute, Gordon, Holmesglen, Kangan, Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT, Swinburne, VU. With so many institutions available it is important that you do some research during senior years at school. This includes attending Open Days, Career Expos, school holiday programs and so on.

2. FOCUS ON SOME HEALTH DEGREES

- MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY - It is possible to study medicine/surgery at Deakin (Geelong), Monash (Clayton & Gippsland), and Melbourne universities. Many interstate universities offer medicine as well, and it is possible to study it in New Zealand (e.g. University of Otago in Dunedin) and have the qualification recognised in Australia. NOTE: Be aware that medical qualifications from many overseas universities are not recognised in Australia and further study in Australia is required.

The ONLY university in Victoria offering an undergraduate medical degree is Monash. Acceptance into this course is based on a combination of ATAR, UMAT result and a multi-mini interview. UMAT is short for the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test. This year the test will be held on Wednesday 27 July. Registrations are open now and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 3 June, 2016. See: http://umat.acmer.edu.au. The UMAT is a multiple choice assessment; it is possible to purchase practice tests at this website, and you are strongly advised to do so as the UMAT is very demanding and practice is vital. The only Victorian undergraduate degree which requires completion of the UMAT is Medicine at Monash. La Trobe University requires it for Dentistry, but only for non-Year 12
applicants. Some interstate universities require it as part of the application process for medicine, dentistry and some other medical-related courses so you are wise to check this. Because of the competition for places, it is common for students keen to study medical courses to apply to interstate universities as well as Victoria. Living in a particular state does not give any priority to applicants. NOTE: international applicants see International Student Admissions Test (ASAT). Monash also offers a post-graduate degree in medicine, as do Deakin and Melbourne universities. Monash has very specific requirements for entry to this degree, including that from 2017, the undergraduate degree MUST be a Monash degree (preferably the B. Biomedical Science, or alternatively the B. Pharmacy or the B. Physiotherapy, or in a small number of cases the B. Science). Most applicants for the Melbourne degree would complete either the B. Biomedicine or the B. Science at Melbourne first. Deakin does not specify the undergraduate degree. NOTE: Many post-graduate medical degrees require applicants to sit for a test known at the GAMSAT. See: 
http://gamsat.acer.edu.au

Dentistry is only offered in Victoria as an undergraduate degree at La Trobe University (Bendigo) and as a post-graduate degree at Melbourne University. It is important for anyone thinking of studying medicine or dentistry to research and start preparing; the competition for university places is very considerable. Some universities offer information sessions about their courses (eg ‘At Monash’ Seminar Series and Focus On Melbourne – details later).

Remember, of course, many students considering medicine or dentistry are well suited to several other occupations, not necessarily in the medical field, so explore these as well.

• BACHELOR OF HEALTH SCIENCES AT MONASH – To whom is this degree suited? Are you passionate about health and keen to contribute to addressing real health challenges? This is a ‘parent’ course under which there are four possible specialisations. Students enrol in the course relevant to their specialisation: B. Emergency Health, B. Human Services (can lead to Masters in Social Work), B. Public Health Science and B. Radiation Science. Studies commence at the Caulfield campus where students from all specialisations apply scientific approaches to the study and improvement of health, considering physiological, behavioural, developmental, social and environmental aspects of human health and disease. After the first three semesters, you will develop an in-depth knowledge of the theory and practice of your specialisation. Prerequisites – Units 3/4 English and any Maths.

• WHAT IS PHYSIOTHERAPY? Physiotherapists assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by injury or disease and work in private practice, rehabilitation centres, hospitals, health departments, mental health, school systems and with sporting organisations. Most aspiring physiotherapists want to work as sport physiotherapists, however, you need to understand that many, in fact, work with elderly patients. Physiotherapy is taught at Monash, La Trobe, Charles Sturt and Melbourne Universities. ACU is introducing the course at the Ballarat campus in 2017. The ATAR required for all courses is very high, and admission to the Monash degree also requires an interview. The Melbourne degree is post-graduate. A science background and interest is required for successful completion of the course.

• WHAT IS MYOTHERAPY? This is a remedial massage course which assists in rehabilitation, pain and injury management. The Advanced Diploma takes two to three years to complete. Some students who are interested in physiotherapy but who are not able to obtain the required ATAR find myotherapy a satisfying alternative. It is offered at a number of institutions such as Box Hill, Chisholm, Holmesglen, Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT and Victoria University.

• WHAT IS OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY? Do you want to engage people to participate in activities to their full potential? Occupational Therapy involves working with individuals, groups and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do. It is taught at ACU, Charles Sturt, La Trobe, Deakin (Geelong), and Monash universities.

• WHAT IS PROSTHETICS? Learn about artificial limbs (prostheses) for people with amputations and supporting devices (orthoses) for people with musculoskeletal weaknesses. In Victoria this degree course is taught only at La Trobe university.