Neerim District Secondary College

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News and Views
March 4, 2016

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VCAL TEAMWORK PAYS OFF

On Sunday 28th February NDSC VCAL students participated in the 10th Annual Upwey Billy Cart Races. This event attracts a wide variety of competitors ranging from primary and secondary school groups to individual families and organizations.

Our VCAL student’s had only 5 weeks to design, construct, test and paint their billy cart and it is a credit to the whole group that this was achieved on time. There was a 90% turn out from the student’s on the day. This dedication was most impressive when considering the 6.30am start on a Sunday morning.

After an initial test run the group performed some fine-tuning with tyre pressures and also a liberal spraying of wheel bearings with CRC. This attention to detail paid off with a first in the open class novelty event and a second in their world-class open heat.

Well done to all.

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

Parent/Student/Teacher interviews will now be held the first week of Term 2 on Wednesday 13 April between 4.30pm – 7.30pm.

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**

**Mobile Phone Use**

As our lives become more and more technology rich, it is becoming a challenge for all of us to manage our time, and our devices courteously. Mobile phone use in class negatively affects a student’s work and their attention to their work. The school in consultation with the STAG group have established the following rule around mobile phone usage at school:

It is not considered appropriate or courteous for students’ to use their mobile phones in class, therefore students are expected to leave their mobile phones in their locker. Lockers should be locked at all times. A student who brings their phone to class will have their phone confiscated for the remainder of the day.

More information on this new process is included elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Billy Cart Race**

Congratulations to the VCAL students for their hard work in building a sturdy billy cart. I believe discussions have already started on how to improve the design for the future! Well-done and congratulations on your success on race day.

**Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews**

Due to the short term and the Easter Break, interviews will now be held in the first week of Term 2. To limit disruption, interviews will be held after school. This is a change on previous years and we will be interested in feedback from parents and staff regarding this change.

**Vaya Cross**

Principal

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**Calendar of Events**

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**Sponsor of the Week**

**CHEROKEES PET CARE**

FOR ALL OF YOUR PET CARE AND TRAINING NEEDS.

This week’s winner is Chloe Cox of Year 10. Well done Chloe, a $30 iTunes card is on its way to you.

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**Reminder**

**Labour Day Public Holiday**

Reminder that Monday 14th March is Labour Day public holiday, NO students are required on this day.

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**Thank You**

Hello, I would like to thank Tamika Clancy and Lauren Potts for helping Glenys during recess and lunch.

Tamika and Lauren have given their spare time to help Glenys with lunch orders and purchases of food while Trish is away. We all need to thank students when we notice them stepping up and helping staff.

I would also like to urge students to help Glenys by paying your tabs. Once again, thank you to Tamika and Lauren and Glenys for your ongoing work in the canteen.

CP
**GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received a good news postcard: Isaiah Abrahams (2), Kyle Bright, Tara Brusco, Cooper Clancy, Chloe Cox, Jed Cumming, Jesse Darcy (2), Mitchell Dawson, Rosie de Kock, Charleigh Duck, Andrew Entsch (2), Rylee Findlater, Blake Freeman (2), Jazzy Fusinato, Carl Garrett, Sasha Geerlings, Rhiannon Harvey, Maddilyn Jeffries, Amy Jones, Jordan Komsky, Lucy Liefman, Grayson McNolty (3), Tori O’Connor, Charlotte Osler, Charlie Ryan, Izzy Ryan, Nathan Ryrie (2), Jake Sayburn, Bethany Sayburn, Julia Surowka, Pam Surowka, Mandy Swain, Corey Triffitt, Jade Vogt & Jarrod Webb.

**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 winners are Rylee Findlater and Tori O’Connor of Year 10. Nominated by Mr Biffin, the girls did a great job in leading and encouraging our junior swimmers at the interschool swimming sports. Congratulations girls, a cheque will be heading your way shortly, courtesy of the Walter Haines Foundation.

**Parents & Friends**

Parents & Friends are looking for people who want to make a contribution to this fantastic school community. The P & F need help to continue to support the school and your children. We have fun casual meetings while organising a couple of fundraisers a year, do small catering jobs and organise and run the Deb Ball every second year.

There are many ways you can help even if you can't make the meetings. If you or someone you know would like to join then please come along to our next meeting at the Neerim District Community Bank Board Room at 7:30pm on the Thursday 10th March for a chat and a cuppa. Any queries please contact Jenni Ryrie on 0421 696 779.

**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.
**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 application 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.

**STAG NEWS**

**UPDATE ON MOBILE PHONE POLICY**

While mobile phones are incredibly useful, they can also be the source of great distraction in the classroom. Using ICT in the wrong way can also cause issues such as cyberbullying. As a result, the STAG team along with staff members have developed a new policy regarding mobile phones.

- Mobile phones are not permitted in the classroom during class time (they should be locked in lockers or given to the office or a teacher to lock away).
- If mobile phones are being used in the classroom, the classroom teacher will confiscate the phone until the end of the day. Students will need to collect confiscated phones from the office at 3.20pm.

We believe the update to this policy is timely and necessary, as it aligns clearly with our school PBS values and expected behaviours. Please do not hesitate to contact the school to discuss the changes to the policy if you have any queries or concerns.

**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.

**FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM.**

▲ **Adolescents using ICT and social media**

It can be difficult to negotiate social media and ICT rules with teenagers. Connecting on social media can be fun, educational and exciting, yet it can also come with some dangers. By visiting [http://www.schoolwellbeing.com.au](http://www.schoolwellbeing.com.au), and logging in using the username **nrd_parents** and the password **NRD_00P**, parents can view a video that assists in providing strategies on how to negotiate fair rules around safe social media usage. Please contact Jimi Hopkins (Wellbeing Coordinator) for assistance accessing the video, or for further information.

▲ **Active April!**

I have registered myself to take part in Active April – a statewide fitness and wellbeing incentive open for everybody. The aim is to take part in 30 minutes of physical activity everyday in April, and you can use your online profile to track the activity. I have signed up and created a NDSC team. You can join too by visiting [https://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au/](https://www.activeapril.vic.gov.au/) and registering yourself as a user. From there, you can select “teams” and then “request to join a team”. “ndsc-2016” is the team ID. By registering for this event, you will automatically receive incentives such as YMCA facility passes, 15% off Sportsmart, buy one get one free entry into Sealife Melbourne Aquarium and more. If you register, you can see how many hours of physical activity you have taken part in, how many hours your team has completed and how many hours people in your postcode have logged. Anyone can join team NDSC – students, teachers, parents or community members. Let’s see how active we can be this April! – Jimi Hopkins

**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.

**YEAR 7 CAMP**

Year 7 students will have received paperwork about Year 7 camp. 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.
Neerim District Junior Basketball Club - Looking to play a team sport surrounded by great friends and lots of fun? Why don’t you give basketball a go?? Basketball is an all year round sport, run in two seasons, Winter & Summer. We are currently looking for new players, across all age groups, from Under 10s to Under 19s, for both boys and girls. Registration forms are available from the Neerim South Post Office, or contact Paula Guy on 0430 452 662, or email the club on: neerimwolvesbasketballclub@hotmail.com. Registrations Close Wednesday 16th March.

Neerim District Junior Football Club - Footy Season is about to start and Neerim District Junior Footy Club is about to start Training: Under 10’s Thursday 17th March 4:30; Under 12’s Thursday 17th March 4.30; Under 14’s Thursday 10th March 4.30. If you haven’t already signed up all age grades are welcome to come down to Neerim South Rec Reserve on the Thursday 10th March from 4:00 to be registered. For further information please contact Secretary on 0403 521 458.

Make life easier... build on your parenting knowledge by coming along to our parenting program!

**TUNING IN TO KIDS**

6 Week Program
Warragul Primary School
Term 2: Thurs 12th May – 16th June 2016
9.30am -11.30am
Contact Tania Serong on 0438958932

Can you open your heart and open your home to a child in need?

Across Gippsland we need more foster carers to provide a safe & welcoming home to children of all ages.

You can help change a young life for the better. If this sounds like it may be you and you would like more information on becoming a foster carer.

For further information please contact Lindsay Jarvis on 5120 2000 or lindsay.jarvis@quantum.org.au
Neerim District Secondary College recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and parents to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, ensuring inclusive, safe and orderly environments for children and young people.

This Statement of Values sets out our behavioural expectations of all members in this school community, including the principal, all staff, parents, students and visitors. It respects the diversity of individuals in our school community and addresses the shared responsibilities of all members in building safe and respectful school communities.

Discrimination, sexual and other forms of harassment, bullying, violence, aggression and threatening behaviour are unacceptable and will not be tolerated in this school.

Our Statement of Values acknowledges that parents and school staff are strongly motivated to do their best for every child. Everyone has the right to differing opinions and views and to raise concerns, as long as we do this respectfully as a community working together.

RESPONSIBILITIES

AS PRINCIPALS AND SCHOOL LEADERS, WE WILL:
- Work collaboratively to create a school environment where respectful and safe conduct is expected of everyone.
- Behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide inclusive, safe and orderly environments.
- Plan, implement and monitor arrangements to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students in attendance at the school is protected.
- Identify and support students who are or may be at risk.
- Do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential.
- Work with parents to understand their child’s needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Respond appropriately when inclusive, safe or orderly behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required.
- Make known to parents the school’s communication and complaints procedures.
- Ask any person who is acting in an offensive or disorderly way to leave the school grounds.

AS TEACHERS AND ALL NON-TEACHING STAFF, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession.
- Proactively engage with parents about student outcomes.
- Work with parents to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly.
- Work collaboratively with parents to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs.
- Communicate with the principal and school leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents.
- Treat all members of the school community with respect.

AS PARENTS, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to our child.
- Ensure our child attends school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- Take an interest in our child’s school and learning.
- Work with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- Communicate constructively with the school and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- Follow the school’s complaints processes if there are complaints.
- Treat all school leaders, staff, students, and other members of the school community with respect.

AS STUDENTS, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to other students.
- Comply with and model school values.
- Behave in a safe and responsible manner.
- Respect ourselves, other members of the school community and the school environment.
- Actively participate in school.
- Not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

AS COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WE WILL:
- Model positive behaviour to the school community.
- Treat other members of the school community with respect.
- Support school staff to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students.
- Utilise the school’s communications policy to communicate with the school.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT WILL:
- Provide support and advice to principals to equip them to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools to manage and respond to challenging behaviour of students, parents and staff.
- Provide practical guidance and resources to support schools respond to and prevent bullying and promote cyber-safety and wellbeing.
- Provide access to evidence based resources and strategies to increase student safety, wellbeing and engagement.
- Provide schools with practical and legal support as required.
- Provide parents with practical guidance and resources to resolve conflicts with the school.

CONSEQUENCES FOR FAILING TO UPHOLD THE STATEMENT OF VALUES

UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Behaviours that are considered inappropriate on and adjacent to school grounds or in relation to school business and that do not uphold the principles of this Statement of Values include when a person:
- is rude, aggressive or harasses others
- sends rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages
- is manipulative or threatening
- speaks in an aggressive tone, either in person or over the telephone
- makes sexist, racist or derogatory comments
- inappropriately uses social media as a forum to raise concerns/make complaints against the school
- is physically intimidating, e.g. standing very close.

CONSEQUENCES

Principals are responsible for determining what constitutes reasonable and unreasonable behaviour.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this Statement of Values may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences. This may include:
- utilising mediation and counselling services
- alternative communication strategies being applied
- formal notice preventing entry onto school premises or attendance at school activities. Written notice will follow any verbal notice given.
- an intervention order being sought
- informing the police which may result in a charge of trespass or assault

By agreeing to meet specified standards of positive behaviour, everyone in our school community can be assured that they will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, this will help to create a school that is safe and orderly, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.
CareerNews No2; 25.02.16

Reminder:
- Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) – Register by: 3 June; Test: 27 July (for Medicine at Monash).

1. HOW CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT TERTIARY COURSES/CAREERS? School students who do their research usually find it easier to make course/career decisions than those who do not. How/where can I research?
   - Go to the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) website at [www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au) and do a Course Search (e.g., find where a particular course is taught, what is this years’ ATAR, what are the prerequisite VCE subjects?)
   - Go online and search for courses on institution websites
   - Read brochures/pamphlets about courses available in the Careers Room
   - Go to career events such as Career Expos; e.g., VCE Careers Expo 2016 at Caulfield Racecourse (see info later in this newsletter)
   - Go to institution Open Days (usually on Sundays in August) – dates later
   - Go to events such as ‘Inside Monash’ (previously called ‘At Monash’) – details later in this newsletter, and ‘Focus on Melbourne’ (University) – details later
   - Attend school holiday programs run by universities and other organisations (e.g., the Zoo and Healesville Sanctuary)
   - Search the Job Guide at [www.jobguide.education.gov.au](http://www.jobguide.education.gov.au); this site also offers links to other useful careers websites (e.g., Job Outlook). Find out what a particular job involves, and what is the likely rate of employment upon graduation.
   - Attend events run during the year which focus on particular careers (e.g., sports related careers, dietetics, psychology careers seminars have been held in the past) – details in this newsletter as they come to hand.
   - Talk to people who work in careers which interests you; What do they like about their careers? Are there disadvantages? How did they qualify?

2. MONASH UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS NEWS – Monash offered more than 10,000 students a place in an undergraduate course for 2016. There was an increase in offers made by the Faculty of Business and Economics, the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Science compared with 2015. Of these offers, 5,800 went to students with a Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) application. These are applications from students who have suffered disadvantage in their education in some way (e.g., illness, disability and so on). For your interest, and to give some guidance as to ATARs required by Monash, see the link below.

3. DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT STUDYING AT MONASH UNIVERSITY?
   - Monash is once again holding a Seminar Series where you can find out what it is really like to study at Monash. The seminar series this year is known as ‘Inside Monash’. The series kicks off on Business and Economics on 9 March, then Science on 10 March and Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on 15 March. When: 6.30pm-8.00pm, 9 March through to 15 September; Where: Clayton, Caulfield or Peninsula campuses; Bookings/Information: [www.monash.edu/inside-monash](http://www.monash.edu/inside-monash); Other Information: Call 1800 MONASH.
   - NOTE: In April there are seminars on Pharmacy, Design and Fine Art, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Global Studies, Nursing and Midwifery, Architecture, Interior Architecture and Psychology. Seminars on other courses will follow from May to September. See the above website for details and bookings. These Seminars are highly recommended for learning more about the course/career which interests you.

4. FOCUS ON DEAKIN UNIVERSITY - Deakin is the seventh largest university in Australia with over 53,000 students. It offers over 700 courses and careers at its four campuses:
   - the largest campus is in the Melbourne suburb of Burwood
   - there are two campuses in Geelong, one at Waurn Ponds and the other on the Geelong Waterfront
   - a campus is located at Warrnambool
   - Deakin offers real choice about how and when you learn, and it is possible to fast-track your degree by studying additional units in Trimester 3. You can choose from a wide range of study areas and select from the huge
range of elective units offered in many courses, including, in some cases, the option to choose elective units from a different field. You can also choose how you study. **Cloud (online)**, the fifth campus, provides flexibility, enabling you to study where and when it suits. Deakin is somewhat unusual in offering the three semesters (trimesters) per year. This means that it is often possible to complete a three-year degree in two years.

- Deakin does not offer VET courses in the way that RMIT, Swinburne and Victoria Universities do. However, Deakin has formal arrangements with a number of VET providers offering pathways into their degrees. For example, Bendigo TAFE, Box Hill Institute, Chisholm, Melbourne Polytechnic, Riverina TAFE, South West TAFE and The Gordon (Geelong) have formal pathways. For details: [www.deakin.edu.au/pathways-to-deakin](http://www.deakin.edu.au/pathways-to-deakin).

- Another pathway to Deakin is from Deakin College. The College offers Diplomas in Commerce, Computing, Engineering, Health Sciences, Management, Media and Communications and Science. Students who perform well in these one-year diplomas are able to transition to the second year of a similar degree at Deakin University.

A great new resource for exploring courses and careers at Deakin can be found at: [explore.deakin.edu.au](http://explore.deakin.edu.au). Featuring more than 700 courses and careers, this mobile tool will help you discover the myriad of future options available to you. You can scroll, select and save favourite courses and careers for later reference. See: [http://explore.deakin.edu.au](http://explore.deakin.edu.au)

5. OPEN DAYS AT HOLMESGLEN – Most tertiary institutions hold their Open Days in August (dates will be provided in the next Newsletter so you can get them in your diary). However, Holmesglen has Open Days throughout the year. Holmesglen is mainly a VET provider (some degrees) with campuses in Chadstone, City, Moorabbin and Waverley. Dates of Open Days are: 17 March, 12 May, 16 June, 11 August, 15 September, 27 October and 15 December. On-line bookings are essential at [www.holmesglen.edu.au/open](http://www.holmesglen.edu.au/open).

6. BIG CAREERS AND EDUCATION EVENT COMING – Attending the VCE and CAREERS EXPO 2016 is a great opportunity to collect information from a huge range of providers at the one location. Exhibitors include: VCE resource providers, universities and TAFE and training colleges. In addition, there will be seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice.

**BIG EVENT!**

**When:** 9am-3pm, Thurs 5 & Fri 6 May; 10am-4pm, Sat 7 & Sun 8 May; **Where:** Caulfield Racecourse; **Cost:** $10 per person, $25 for families; **Info:** [www.vceandcareers.com.au](http://www.vceandcareers.com.au).

Put the date in your diary now! **NOTE:** Events such as these are great for collecting general information from many sources, so are particularly good for Year 10-11. **Open Days** at individual institutions will provide more specific course information.

7. SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY NEWS – Swinburne is a provider of higher education and vocational education and training (VET) courses. Its main campus is in Hawthorn, with small campuses in Croydon and Wantirna.

- 2016 saw the introduction of **11 Professional Degrees** in areas such as Arts, Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Games and Interactivity, Health, Science, Information and Communication Technology, Media and Communication, and Science. These degrees are for high-achieving students and incorporate a guaranteed, paid, full-time work placement. They feature a mandatory 12-month work placement which is normally undertaken during the third year of study. Students receive academic credit and gain valuable skills that will make graduates job-ready. The university will find appropriate placements for students.

- UniLink is quite a recent development at Swinburne. UniLink offers one-year courses for students who are unable to reach the required ATAR for Swinburne degrees. Around 80% of UniLink students are able to pathway into appropriate degrees at Swinburne in the following year.

Compiled by m.walker