Neerim District Secondary College
News and Views
February 5, 2016

STAG MEMBERS RUNNING THE CANTEEN

STAG members, and College Captain and Vice Captain, Sab O’Connor and Connor Perry running the canteen on Thursday.

Year 7 Barbecue
Wednesday February 10th
Students stay on at school for a homework session
Attend our barbecue and meet your child’s teachers

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY ON FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY
All students should have received materials in preparation for this. Students hand their order envelopes directly to the photographers on the day. If Parents wish us to hold these at the office, we are able to do that and will hand them to your son/daughter on the day.

Full uniform is required on that day.
Spares are available from the office.

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.

If you wish to become a sponsor please contact Stuart Nicolson at the school on 5628 1455 to discuss.
**Principal’s Report**

To everyone in our school community, welcome back.

I would like to start by thanking the students and their families for another smooth and productive start to the school year.

**School Canteen**

As per usual, the school community has pulled together during Glenys absence and with the help of our STAG (Student Action Group) students and Ms Hopkins we have managed to fend for ourselves! It has been a reminder for all of us (not that we needed it) that Glenys and Trish go above and beyond in looking after us. The school canteen is an integral part of our school and the culture here at NDSC. Glenys and Trish epitomise our school value of “showing respect” by always making every student and staff member feel cared for. To the many students who have asked me about Glenys’ recovery – she is doing well and is due back at work in the near future.

**Year 7s**

Our new Year 7s are settling in well. A big thank you to the parents who have helped them get organised for the school year and to the many students who have welcomed them into our school. At the whole school assembly, I talked about how NDSC students and staff view this school as a large, extended family. Great families show one another respect; encourage each other; value each other’s opinions; do things that help others, more often than not ahead of our own needs; and finally, great families forgive us when we make mistakes.

**School Council Elections**

I would encourage as many parents as possible to become involved with our School Council. This is a great way to learn more about the school and your child’s education, but also is an excellent way to give back to the community. Our School Council and the Parents and Friends Organisation have been instrumental in creating the school we are today. Without Parents and Friends many of the opportunities students access would not be possible.

Notice of election and call for nominations by **Monday, 15 February 2016**.

Closing date for nominations will be **Monday, 22 February 2016**.

More information will follow.

**Vaya Cross**

Principal

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**Hoax phone calls to Victorian schools**

We want to reassure you in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days. Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

If you have any questions please contact the school.

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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>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9        Senior Boys Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 9        Year 11 &amp; 12 VCE Welcome Evening, 7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 10     Year 7 BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 11      CEA 9 UrbanKnights to Royal Botanical Garden &amp; Aboriginal Heritage Walk</td>
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<td>Friday 12        School Photos</td>
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<td>Tuesday 16       House Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>Friday 19        Year 12 Chemistry Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23       Year 7 Immunizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 25      CEA 9 UrbanKnights to State Library &amp; City Circle Tram Navigation</td>
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**Sponsor of the Week**

**STEWY DAVIS AUTOMOTIVE**

FORMALLY MARK’S AUTO

NDSC welcomes SDA as the newest member of our wonderful sponsorship team.

All mechanical and electrical repairs with a professional and personal touch.
**GOOD NEWS POSTCARDS**

Congratulations to the following students who received a good news postcard: Tara Brusco, Cooper Clancy, Chloe Cox, Mitchell Dawson, Cooper Dobell, Bronte Harvey, Patrick Hoddinott, Amy Jones, Shakira Kimm, Grace MacDonald, Tristan Martin, Brooke Peters (2), Thomas Richardson, Isabell Ryan, Cooper Tame, Jade Wilson, Ruby McKissack-Broad, Rylee Findlater, Lucas Flegg, Jesse Darcy, Kyle Clarke, Loki Bromilow & Charlie Ryan.

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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.**

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**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.

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**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.

**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.

Again, the mighty STAG team has jumped in and helped out to cover the canteen while Glenys is away. A brilliant effort. A special lunch will be heading your way shortly, courtesy of the Walter Haines Foundation.

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**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.

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**Neerim South Hotel**

91-109 Main Neerim Rd Neerim South
Ph: 5628 1431 Fax: 5628 1093

**Neerim South Milk Bar and Takeaway**

133 Main Neerim Rd Neerim South
Ph: 5628 1454

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**Deja Vu Hair & Body**

Phone 5628 1513
129 Main Road, Neerim South 3831
**NDSC Breakfast Club**

Beginning on Monday 8th February, the conference room will be open from 8.15am for early arrivals and bus travelers.

Toasted bread, 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!

**LOOKING FOR TRANSPORT TO DROUIN WEST PS TO CATCH THE SCHOOL BUS**

We have a student who lives in Drouin who needs transport to the Drouin West PS to enable him to catch the bus in to school on Thursdays and Fridays. If you are able to assist with this matter please contact the general office or Mrs Cross.

**VCE Welcome Evening**

Neerim District Secondary College would like to invite students doing VCE and their parents to our VCE Welcome Evening on Tuesday 9th February at 7:00pm in E2.

This evening has been specifically designed to ensure that both you and your child are prepared for the upcoming VCE journey ahead. During the evening you will be informed about what to expect for your child in 2016 and how the school will work with you and your child to help them achieve their very best results. Parents will also be given information about how they can best support their child during their VCE.

Staff teaching VCE will be available to discuss their subject followed by tea, coffee and a light supper.

By attending the evening you will be given a VCE pack full of imperative information, tips and advice to assist your child to achieve their very best.

We look forward to seeing VCE students and their parents at this special evening.

Steve Vincent  
VCE Coordinator

**Swimming**

During Term One, students in Year 7 and 8 will be involved in water based activities at the Neerim South Swimming Pool. These activities will take place during class time under the supervision of the class teacher and a staff member of the management group (YMCA).

Year 8 have class on Mondays, Period 4. The program will run for four weeks starting on Monday 8th February.

The Year 7 program will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays – 10th, 11st, 17th & 18th February.

Suitable swimming attire and a towel is required and students are strongly encouraged to bring goggles to assist them in their swimming endeavours. A plastic bag to put wet gear in is also recommended.

As this program runs outside the normal operating hours of the pool a charge is levied for each student by the pool management. The cost for this program will be $12 per individual for the four sessions. This fee should be paid at the school office as soon as possible.

Steve Vincent  
Health and Physical Education KLA Leader

**Immunizations**

Year 7 Immunizations will be held on Tuesday 23rd Feb. If you have not received a consent card or have misplaced your card please contact the school. Cards must be filled out and returned before this date even if your child is not being vaccinated.

Thanks

Lee Pattinson - First Aid Co-ordinator

**School Photographs**

School photos will be by our School Photographers, Spargo Photography on Friday 12 February 2016.

To ensure that your photos are returned back as quickly as possible, please follow these quick and easy guidelines.

- Please write clearly on your child's envelope (Block letters preferred)
- If possible please don't use small change as this can break or fall out of your envelope, if this is not possible, please tape up the sides or put the money in a freezer bag then inside your envelope.
- For online orders, complete an envelope and record the Order Number in the “online Order#” section on the envelope.
- All children must have their own envelope with them when being photographed.
- Do not use one envelope for multiple children.
- Children without an envelope when having their individual photos taken will not have an order placed against their name.
- For Family/Siblings & Friends Portraits please see your school office for an information flyer and red family envelope.
- Do not place a family envelope inside another envelope or an individual envelope.
- We will only photograph family/siblings with a completed family envelope.

**ONLINE PRE-ORDER**

Spargo now provides the flexibility of pre-paying your child's photos online. Simply visit their website at www.spargophoto.com.au to place your order. Once completed, print out your confirmation invoice and include in your child's envelope.

If you have any inquiries, please contact Spargo Photography on (03) 5942 5234.
From the Nurse

Welcome back everyone!!

I hope you all had an enjoyable break and are all ready for a great year ahead. Here is just a reminder of what the school nurse can do for you at Neerim District Secondary College.

The secondary school nurse works as a member of the student welfare team to improve the health and wellbeing of students. Students are better prepared for learning when they are healthy, safe and happy. The nurse facilitates health promotion and health education activities in the school.

The school nurse has the ability to assist the school community to:

- Encourage healthier school communities
- Enhance the health of students
- Develop greater connections for students at school, home and in the wider community
- Work with teachers to deliver health education sessions that may include sexual health, body image, safe partying
- Support transition for students from primary to secondary school and within secondary school year levels
- Facilitate student wellbeing programs to improve student’s health, e.g. peer mediation. Staff and students are welcome to make suggestions about health issues that are considered important to cover in health promotion or health education sessions.

Often it is helpful for students to talk to parents or other family members about problems. If students would like support to do this the school nurse can help. The nurse can also help individual students with information, guidance and support about a range of issues that may include:

- Relationships
- Loss and grief
- Adolescent health concerns
- Coping with illness
- Safe sex
- Smoking, alcohol and drug use
- Managing stress and anxiety
- Body art
- Feeling anxious, stressed or unhappy
- Healthy weight
- Problems at home
- Culture or racism issues

Getting the right help

It is important to get the right information, from the right person at the right time. Being informed helps students make better choices. As well as providing students with information and support, the school nurse can also help them find and get in touch with other health services that might include:

- Local doctors
- Medical specialists
- Community Health Centres
- Alcohol and drug counsellors
- Psychologist or Youth counsellors
- Student Support Service Officers
- Family Planning services
- Culturally specific services

Confidentiality

The school nurse works in the school as a member of the student welfare team but is employed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The nurse is required to keep your information private and confidential unless you agree otherwise. However, there are some instances (if, for example, the nurse thinks you are at risk of being harmed or harming someone else) where the school nurse may have to let other people know about your situation. If you are unsure talk to the school nurse first to find out if what you talk about is confidential.

The secondary school nurse at your school is: Laura Kent and is available every Thursday.

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 details.

Community Notices

⇒ Neerim District Cricket Club will be holding a Ho Down on Saturday 5th March at the Neerim Recreation Reserve.

More information to come.