Parent Newsletter

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TERM 4
ISSUE 4
28 November 2014

Important Dates

- 3 December - Parent Helper’s Morning Tea (Rangeview Staffroom)
- 3 December - Kids Hope Mentor’s Thank you Dinner & Games
- 5 December - Year 3/4 Bike Ride
- 10 December - Coach Approach Forms & Payment Due
- 10 December - College Council
- 11 December - Mount View Canteen Closure
- 11 December - Christmas Concert (Rangeview Campus)
- 12 December - Year 9 Celebration BBQ Lunch
- 12 December - Year 5/6 Bike Ride
- 15 December - Year 9 Students at Rangeview Campus
- 16 December - Grade 6 Graduation
- 17 December - Coach Approach Program (Years Prep - 2)
- 18 December - Awards Night
- 19 December - Last Day Term 4 1.30pm dismissal

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- Rangeview Campus, Rangeview Road Access
- College Activities

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- Moving to Rangeview
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RANGEVIEW CAMPUS CO-PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
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MIDDLE YEARS’ ASIAN EXPO

The students in the Middle Years have been studying Asian countries and cultures. Students created a stall for an ‘Asian Expo’ this week, to inform other students about their chosen country.
Greetings,

The following arrangements have been put in place to ensure the safety of our children, parents and staff before, during and after the school day. Your cooperation with these measures would be greatly appreciated and will assist in protecting all members of our community.

The Rangeview Road car park is a staff car park and not available for parent parking. It is not suitable for pedestrian traffic. Please do not enter the school and walk through the car park.

Families are requested to enter the school grounds at the Rangeview Road entrance through the single gate or the double gates adjacent to the school crossing at the beginning and end of the school day. During the course of the day, the single gate entrance will be the only entrance available. Please check in at the Satellite Office, for visitors between 8.45am - 11.00am and 3.00pm - 3.45pm, for visitors outside of these times, please check in at the Albert Avenue, General Office, so that we know who is on school grounds at all times.

Early Learning Centre (ELC) parents, after entering via the single gate, are encouraged to use the walkway provided along the edge of the staff car park down the driveway to the ELC. No cars, other than staff cars, are allowed in this area.

The gates to the staff car park will be closed in the morning, as will the gates adjacent to the Rangeview Road crossing. These will be locked after school commences and reopened prior to the end of the school day.

These arrangements are being constantly revised and may change next year as our College grows.

I was fortunate enough to visit a recent Prep Transition session where next years students had participated in a German session and a Music session. It’s wonderful to see their enthusiasm and joy as they interact with our teachers and each other. They are looking forward to life as ‘big’ Prep children next year and we look forward to their arrival. Did you know we are planning for three Prep grades next year as or numbers are growing? Our 2015 Prep students will enjoy small class sizes, conducive to a wonderful beginning to school life.

Since the last newsletter I have enjoyed participating in number of school activities including our ELC Information Evening, VCE Art and Music Concert, and our Year 12 Valedictory Dinner. On Thursday evening we are conducting a Middle Years information session for parents of our current Year 3 and 4 students outlining the innovative teaching and learning practices we employ when teaching our Years 5 to 7 students.

It’s hard to believe there is only three weeks of school left this year. That’s come around very quickly!

David Rose
College Principal

Mount View Campus Principal’s Report

YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY DINNER

Year 12 graduation was celebrated at our Valedictory Dinner last Wednesday 19 November. It was a lovely evening for all who attended, and wonderful to see the culmination of many years of schooling come to a successful close for these students. They are a delightful group of young adults, and our best wishes go with them as they embark on the next stage of their lives. There was a mixture of pride, excitement and sadness, as the close connection we have had with many wonderful families also ends. It is this partnership between students, families and the school that facilitates successful outcomes and makes our work so much more satisfying as well, so we treasure these connections. Thank you to Rachel Gardiner and the Senior Team for once again organising this special event!

CANTEEN OPERATION

Please note that the canteen will cease operation at the Mount View Campus on Thursday 11 December. Friday 12 December will be the last day at this Campus for the Year 9 students, and we will provide a celebration BBQ lunch for the students that day. If students require a snack/drink for recess they will need to bring it from home. The canteen also begins winding down its supplies at this stage of the year, so the range of offerings is being gradually reduced.

MOVING TO RANGEVIEW/ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAST WEEK OF TERM

Year 9 students will move to the Rangeview Campus from Monday 15 December, so they must go straight there in the mornings, not come to Mount View first. Students who usually travel by public bus will need to check with the driver for the closest drop-off point to that campus. Buses that currently come in to the school will simply bypass the school and go on to Rangeview from that date, but once again it would be advantageous to mention this to the driver during the next two weeks.

From the beginning of the 2015 school year, the school crossing at the junction of Forest Road and Mount View Road will not be manned by a ‘lollypop’ person, so students who walk to school and use that crossing will need to be particularly careful when crossing the busy road.
CAMPUS SECURITY

This week we have become increasingly security conscious as Senior Students are finishing their end-of-year programs and moving out to Work Placement and other activities. It means out student population at the Campus is decreasing week by week, and staff are working hard to run programs but also to clean up/sort out materials and equipment for the big move down the hill. Staff are also up and down the road taking classes at Rangeview and moving things into their new teaching/office spaces. This means that a teacher and his/her class might be the only occupants of a wing, in a large school where there is currently a lot of movement in and out. In Week 10, after exams and orientation, we will move all the remaining students into the eSpace for classes as this is a nice area to work and will allow us to feel like a small community.

Each day after the students have left the grounds, staff are being asked to lock the wing doors and staff room doors, as this can be a time when we have members of the public using the grounds as a thoroughfare, walking dogs, etc. Any parents or visitors to the Campus should come in via the front door at this time. We need to be conscious of our security personally and also ensure that our equipment/rooms are looked after.

VET ORIENTATION

It was a funny sight this past Wednesday as many of our Year 9 students rushed off to their first VET experience. The excitement and anticipation in this next stage of moving up to a senior program is apparent, and wonderful to see.

Judy Triffett

Mount View Campus Principal

Rangeview Campus Co-Principal’s Report

‘Teen Tech Crisis Looms’! Parents may have seen this heading in the local paper referring to a recent survey of approximately 1000 students aged 11 to 17. It is an interesting article.

Unfortunately the findings did not surprise me. One of the most telling finding for teachers and schools is that teenagers ‘check their phone more than 80 times a day while at school’.

Think of the impact this obsessive behaviour has on a child’s concentration and ability to learn without interruption.

I have included our Mobile Phone policy for your information. This was tabled in our last College Council meeting and circulated to staff for their input. Obviously we can use phones and mobile devices for educational purposes but need to remove the temptation of the phone from your child during the school day.

Any messages from parents should be directed to their child through the school office not directly to the student during class time. We are seeking parent support with this matter.

BORONIA K-12 COLLEGE: MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Rationale:

- Boronia K-12 College recognises that many students now feel the need to carry a mobile phone and accepts that there are genuine reasons for their use – for example to contact parents after sport practice, a part-time job after school or in emergencies.
- As we are a learning community, the use of mobile phones and similar electronic devices can be disruptive to the learning environment and we do need rules to govern their use during school hours. We also acknowledge that mobile phones / electronic communication devices can be used for valid educational purposes as long as guidelines for safe and acceptable use are in place.

- Mobile phones and other electronic devices can easily be improperly used, lost or damaged and must therefore be effectively managed.

Aims:

- To utilise the benefits of mobile phones whilst managing the problems they can potentially cause.

Implementation:

- If mobile phones are brought to school they are to be used only outside school hours and at their owner’s risk (exception - see dot point 4)
- The College will not accept any responsibility for theft, loss or damage or health effects (potential or actual) resulting from mobile phone use
- Parents and students should ensure that phones (and/or electronic devices) are properly and adequately insured as personal property

Mobile phones must be turned off and locked in the student’s locker at the start of the school day and not accessed until the final bell unless permission has been given by a child’s teacher for a specific educational purpose in a specific class for a specified period of time. Any unacceptable use of the mobile phone (or similar electronic device) under these special circumstances will mean the loss of this privilege for the students involved

Mobile phones must not be taken into any examination room or test, in line with Victorian Curriculum & Assessment Authority policy

Students must not use a mobile or an electronic device to take images or record conversations of other students or staff without written consent

Use of mobile phones during excursions and on camp is to be determined by the classroom teacher / teacher in charge of the excursion or camp, in accordance with the guidelines for safe and acceptable use as outlined in this document.
Students who become unwell during the day must not use their mobile phone to contact their parent / guardian to collect them. Students must follow the normal procedure of visiting sick bay and/or talking to the Assistant Principal / Class, Pod or Mentor Teacher who will make the necessary arrangements in conjunction with the General Office.

Students engaged in the inappropriate use of mobile phones/electronic devices including but not restricted to bullying or harassing others through SMS, voice or picture will receive immediate consequences, increasing in severity depending on nature of the offence.

Senior students (Years 10-12) may utilise their phones in some subjects to complete learning/curriculum tasks. This must be done in accordance with the guideline for safe and acceptable use, as outlined in this document.

Non-observance or breaches of this policy may result in the student’s mobile phone being confiscated for the remainder of that school day, kept in a safe place for collection by the student after the final bell.

If the student refuses to hand over his/her phone or is rude / uncooperative towards the teacher confiscating the phone that child’s parents will be notified and further consequences discussed (e.g. phone handed into the General Office each morning and collected in the afternoon for a week).

If a student’s mobile phone is confiscated more than twice in a school term because of inappropriate use / use during the school day, the phone will need to be collected from an Assistant Principal by the parent/ guardian of the student.

Repeated breaches of this policy may lead to suspension from school.

Inappropriate or unacceptable use of mobile phones causing harm or distress to other members of the school community will lead to severe consequence including possible suspension.

**Permission forms need to be returned a.s.a.p.**

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**BIKE EDUCATION - IMPORTANT NOTE**

Due to a change in circumstances, we have had to make alterations to the end of unit bike ride. Please see the changes below:

**Years 3/4** – Half day ride to Lewis Road on **Friday 5 December**, has been changed to a Bike Education Expo held at the College from 11.30am - 3.30pm. The date remains as **Friday 5 December**.

**Years 5/6** – Full day ride to Jell’s Park on **Friday 12 December**, has been changed to a half day ride to Lewis Road from 11.30am onwards. The date remains as Friday 12 December.

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**CHRISTMAS BOX FOR NEEDY FAMILIES**

In the midst of all the celebrations, we know that there are many families who find it tough at Christmas time. So, as a school community, we would like to be able to help them enjoy Christmas with some things that they may not otherwise be able to have. We will be collecting items (see as follows) until **Tuesday 9 December**.

Suggested items are: **non-perishable food items, whether ordinary items or items more specifically for Christmas and/or Toys, wrapped, with a label showing boy/girl and approximate age.**

There will be a collection box in the General Office foyer for parents or students to drop-off donations. The donated items will be picked up Knox Infolink on or around the 9/12, and distributed by Rowville Salvos to needy families in our community.

As I spend time with parents we sometimes talk about the stages of life, including times when we need help, and times when we can help others. For those of us who are able, let’s encourage others by giving so that their Christmas may be more special.

**Alan Silverwood**

Chaplain

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**SATELITTE ADMIN HOURS:** 8.45AM - 11.00AM | 3.00PM - 3.45PM
The new Preps of 2015 have been busy visiting the school and attending some of the specialist classes. Last week the Preps of 2015 visited Mrs Trounsen in the refurbished Art Room and Mrs Williamson in the Gymnasium, all the new students had fun making new friends and meeting the teachers.
What will I do for our kids’ future?

There is no more important role than being a parent. However, there is probably no tougher role. As I spend time with both children and parents, working through what it means to be a family, I hear about very challenging situations, and I also hear some very helpful comments.

Sometimes I hear about the amount of time that parents and kids get to spend with each other. Some talk about ‘quality’ time, making the most of a small amount of time. Sometimes children say their parent ‘is always on the phone or computer, playing games or on the internet’, or they don’t get much time with them. Parents could easily say the same about their kids. Also, financial stress on families is huge, causing us to often lose out on important things, like relationships.

When I was young, Dad spent more time with others than us, which meant our relationship wasn’t so good, until later in life when we reconnected, until his death 20 years ago. From then on, I was determined to spend time with our kids, to be a good Dad (no-one is perfect).

A Mum recently told me that a life event reminded her of the need to ‘get back to the basics’. This was an ‘ah-ha!’ moment, changing life for the better. So – what messages do I send my kids when the computer gets more time than they do, or when we watch TV in different rooms, or when I don’t make time to hang out with them? We can still change? Check out this poem:

If I Had My Child to Raise Over Again - © Diana Loomans
If I had my child to raise over again,
I’d finger paint more, and point the finger less.
I’d do less correcting, and more connecting.
I’d take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less, and know to care more.
I’d take more hikes and fly more kites.
I’d stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I’d run through more fields, and gaze at more stars.
I’d do more hugging, and less tugging.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I’d build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I’d teach less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.
It matters not whether my child is big or small,
From this day forth, I’ll cherish it all.

From 100 Ways to Build Self-Esteem & Teach Values by
Diana Loomans (c) 2004 New World Library

Alan Silverwood

Chaplain

Pastoral care for our community, with issues of emotional, financial, spiritual, physical nature.
Students and the Community

We have a number of students at Boronia K-12 College who participate in various extra curricular activities outside of school, many of them involving the wider community. Pictured, is Corbin (3/4 A) and Tyneeka (Prep B), participating in the Remembrance Day march, which took place at the Arboretum. The students marched down Dorset Road alongside their Scout group and with police escort.

Musical Talent

Belinda (5/6 A) sat for her Grade 7 piano exam, and received a ‘B’ as her result. This is an amazing effort! Belinda’s talent has enabled her to skip a grade, jumping from Grade 5, to 7 in piano. Belinda’s talents do not end with piano, she is also currently Grade 3 in violin and playing beautifully.

What a talent! We look forward to seeing (and listening to) Belinda’s progression as she undoubtedly delves deeper in the world of instrumental music. Congratulations Belinda, well done!

Bike Education Program

Year 3 - 6 Students, don’t forget your bike and helmet on P.E days!
VCE Visual Arts and Music Night: Celebrating Our Creative Students

Last week we held our second Annual VCE Visual Arts and Music event in the Performing Arts Centre. Once again, it was a terrific night, members of the College community being given the opportunity to browse through the foyer area to view the amazing art from Year 11 and 12 students while enjoying ice-creams and other goodies from the ‘bar’.

School staff, friends, parents and families helped to create a great atmosphere on the night. The music concert featured all the VCE music students, and they performed a range of music from their VCE programs. The concert was a happy occasion to say goodbye, and acknowledge, the commitment and effort these students have made to the school music program over the past six years. The coveted ‘Smash the Guitar Award’ was presented to Jesse 12A and Stephanie 12A for their contribution to the VCE music program in 2014. Many thanks to the parents of our VCE students who supported all the VCE music students to perform at countless concerts and events over the years, and who have helped us in so many ways to build the great program we have now. We shall miss all these students and their families.

Luckily, there are many more talented music students coming through the school, and we enjoyed performances from our Street Beats Ensemble students, vocal group ‘Like It Loud’, Year 7 and 8 guitar, percussion and vocal soloists and groups, and Year 9 and 10 student soloists and bands.


Thanks also for the wonderful VCE Visual Arts students for allowing us to see their creative, interesting and thought provoking art: Stephanie Brodkorb, Jeremy Swan, Kane Taylor, Nastassja White, Nyomie Lagerwey-Allen, Cameron Commons, Jade Adams, Cody Dodd, Leroy Hau, Matthew Librio, Kira Alexander, Anna Finch, Tegan Johnson, Sabitri Khatri, and Taylor Matthews.

Final mention to our wonderful staff and sound production team:

Olivia Karpathiou (Art)
Jennifer Royle (Music/Keyboard)
Dave Hartney (Guitar)
Nick Adams (Drums/Percussion)
Rebecca Russell (Vocal)
Stephen Sanders (Sound)
Daniel McCormack (Sound)
Jeon Patton (Sound and Lights)

Jenny Royle
Secondary Music Coordinator
This Term, the students in the Middle Years have been studying Asian countries and cultures. All students were given the opportunity to investigate a particular country. In groups students created a stall for an ‘Asian Expo’ this week, to inform other students about their chosen country. All students researched different aspects of their country including geography and culture. The Year 7 students were also required to create a business that would connect Australia to their chosen Asian country. All students were given the opportunity to present their wonderful work to their peers, parents and wider community.

Liam A. – “It was fun. I loved seeing all the different cultures and food.”
Cooper M – “It was great having all the little kids coming in and getting the ‘vibe’ of Asia.”
Declan A. – “I enjoyed the multiculturalism.”
Abbey and Jorja – “We loved sharing our work with the little kids.”
Lexi – “It was very nice learning about other countries.”
Important update about the Schoolkids Bonus

Legislation has passed to phase out Schoolkids Bonus payments. The last instalment will be paid in July 2016. The legislative change introduces an income test starting on 1 January 2015.

We promoted the Saver Plus initiative earlier this year. If you have not joined up but would like help to save for education costs, and have your savings matched, contact Simon Mansfield as above.

Alan Silverwood - Chaplain

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<th>Kids Hope</th>
<th>Helper's Morning Tea</th>
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<td><strong>Helpers, Thank You Morning Tea</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Date:</strong> Wednesday 3 December 2014</td>
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<td><strong>Time:</strong> 11.00am - 11.30am</td>
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<td><strong>Where:</strong> Rangeview Campus Staffroom</td>
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<td><strong>Kids Hope Break-up Games/ Dinner</strong></td>
<td>Tea, coffee, and assorted nibbles provided by the Boronia K-12 College Staff in thanks for your time and assistance.</td>
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<td><strong>Where:</strong> Rangeview Campus Cafe</td>
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Tea, coffee, and assorted nibbles provided by the Boronia K-12 College Staff in thanks for your time and assistance.

College Year Book

The College Magazine, which covers activities and student contributions from students in the ELC through to Year 12 will be available from the College (Rangeview Campus) from Thursday 18 December 2014.

The magazine has a limited print run so it is important that you get your order in now. Cost is $20.00 for 80 pages in full colour and includes photos, reports on activities, the award recipients and college DUX. It is a great keepsake of your child's year at Boronia K-12 College!

Please order your copy from the General Office at the Rangeview Campus by the end of Friday 28 November.

STUDENT BANKERS

A note for student bankers, that unfortunately the swim bag, and projector cup prizes are no longer available. The Commonwealth Bank send their apologies for any inconvenience that this may have caused. Happy saving!
ELC - Year 6 Boronia K-12 College
Christmas Concert

Don’t Forget
Parents, family and friends, BYO chair.
Students are NOT required to bring their own chair. Children will be sitting in their classroom groups at the front of the stage.
Parents, family and friends feel free to begin placing chairs by 3.30pm.

And...
Glow sticks, flashing badges, and all things bursting with Christmas cheer very welcome!

Date
Thursday, 11 December

Time
7.00 pm - 8.20 pm
Students must be at their classrooms by 6.30 pm

Place
Performing Arts Amphitheatre, Rangeview Campus