A dynamic learning environment where the whole community takes responsibility in preparing for the future.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 5 Mar</td>
<td>Southern Ranges Swimming</td>
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<td>Thur 5 Mar</td>
<td>OSO33 Mt Buffalo Climbing Camp Returns approx. 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 6 Mar</td>
<td>OSO11 Lake Nillahcootie Canoe Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 12 Mar</td>
<td>65SSG Mt Samaria Orienteering</td>
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<td>Thur 12 Mar</td>
<td>‘Shave for a Cure’ Day in the PAC lunchtime</td>
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<td>Thur 12 Mar</td>
<td>VCE Top Class Excursion</td>
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<td>Fri 13 Mar</td>
<td>Round Robin 1</td>
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<td>Tue 17 Mar</td>
<td>Hume Region Swimming</td>
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<td>Wed 18 Mar</td>
<td>English Excursion ‘No Sugar’ departs 9am</td>
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<td>Fri 20 Mar</td>
<td>House Athletics Sports</td>
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<td>Mon 23 Mar</td>
<td>School Council 7pm</td>
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Principal's Notes

School Council Elections
With equal numbers of nominations and vacancies, it gives me pleasure to announce the successful candidates for School Council:

- Simone Reeves
- Rowena Sladdin
- Craig Kappes
- Robyn Reed

Simone and Rowena are experienced school councillors, returning for a second term of office. Robyn and Craig are both well-established members of the school and local communities and I look forward to their contributions. When the DET employee category members are finalised, I will announce the full council for 2015.

Student Safety
I would like to re-iterate a message about student safety from last week’s bulletin, as your ongoing support is both needed and valued.

We have three concerns regarding student safety that we would like you to discuss with your children:

- Crossing at the school crossings throughout town – Shire Council has requested that we encourage students to cross at the designated crossings. Whilst students are using the View St crossing well, the Highett St crossing near the Steiner School is sometimes ignored. Council is building a case for Vicroads, to continue to have the crossing in use. If our students choose to cross elsewhere, this important safety feature may be lost.

- Pedestrian travel through private property – both Bindaree and St Mary’s Primary School are not thoroughfares for students. Both areas are private property and, particularly at Bindaree, concerns have been raised with the mix of pedestrians and cars in the car park. I encourage students to walk around, rather than through, these properties.

- Dropping students off in the car park – concerns have been raised about parents dropping off students
in the staff car park. Particularly, some parents are travelling too quickly in an area shared with pedestrians. I encourage parents to use the PAC (gravel) car park to drop students off, or the new car park at the playing fields (east end of View Street).

Thanks for your support with these conversations. We value the shared responsibility we have in educating our young people.

Clean Up Australia Day
It is great to see the leadership of our VCAL students in organising the clean-up for the school occurring today. We are proud of the culture of respect within the college, particularly respect for our environment, and the VCAL class recognises the need to assist other students to learn to put their rubbish in the bin. All our staff and students are involved in the clean-up and I thank them for their efforts.

The Comparative Advantage of Public School Graduates
There are good reasons for sending your children to your nearest government school. Students attending their local school are also more likely to be engaged with their local community, more engaged with community sport and recreation, more connected to their peers, more connected to their parents, and still able to achieve outstanding academic outcomes. I recently read an article in ‘Professional Voice’, parts of which I wish to share with you and is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Essentially, they conclude that when University achievement rates are analysed, public school students outperform private school students academically, and also have higher retention rates.

Regards
Tim Hall

FOR SALE
2 Trampolines
- 1 Olympic Size
- 1 Large Size
$100 each
Stored / used inside only
Can be viewed at the Complex
Contact Ross Gray at the College
Ph 5775 2022

Music News

Lessons are underway in vocals, woodwind, brass, percussion and guitar. This year we have an overflow of guitar students wanting to learn with Paul. He is a much sought after teacher! In the interim I will be taking four year 7 and one year 9 student. Charges will be the same as other woodwind and keyboard students at $25.00 per term.

A reminder that Paul is away for the next two weeks. Guitar lessons will resume Tuesday 17th March.

We need more brass and woodwind students! If your child is interested in acquiring lifelong skills, likes socialising and is interested in music then learning an instrument is for them.

Ray Wynn, our new brass teacher has started a Jazz based stage band every Monday lunch. State School Spectacular vocalists are already rehearsing and VCE students are performing at Picnic in the Park next Monday at Mirimbah. Well done to all students involved.

Jan White
Mansfield Police have been notified about students not properly using the school crossing near Steiner School. Crossing in other places causes confusion to motorists, particularly during busy times and, more importantly, creates risk to students in the area. Police and council are asking that all families discuss the importance of using the crossing to cross Highton Street. Much work has been put in by council to have the crossing installed and if it’s not used correctly the town may lose it.

Thanks for your co-operation – stay safe!

Lyn Holland
Victoria Police Senior Sergeant
Officer in Charge Mansfield Police Cluster
M.E.R.C. Mansfield Shire Council
M.E.R.C. Mt Buller Mt Stirling ARMB

SCIENCE COMPETITION

The Science Department is providing an opportunity for students to challenge themselves in the Big Science Competition.

The Big Science Competition will be held

This international competition tests critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as science knowledge.

The competition has 30 questions on contemporary issues and runs for 50 minutes.

It is open to students of all abilities, at three levels:
- Junior (Years 7-8)
- Intermediate (Years 9-10)
- Senior (Years 11-12)

Each student who takes part will receive a certificate as well as detailed feedback on their performance in the competition. They also go into a draw to win hundreds of iTunes and movie vouchers.

Cost of entry is $10.00. Only schools can register students.

Please return the permission form below along with payment to the Front Office by FRIDAY MARCH 27.

Permission to participate in the Big Science Competition 2015

Name of Student ....................................................Year .........................

Parent/Guardian signature .................................................................

Payment enclosed .................
Families wishing to enrol students in the Mt Buller Annex for Term 3 2015 should now download the ‘Supplementary Details and Enrolment Form’ from the Mansfield Secondary College Website


and hand in to the front office. Deposits to confirm a position at The Annex are due THIS FRIDAY 6th MARCH 2015.

ROBOTICS

Year 7 Science students will be taking a robotics course this year for the first time here at school. Last week your teachers built, programmed and competed with each other during a professional development session run by Jamie Carns. Jamie is an ex student of ours and is studying robotics at University.

2015 Uniform

⇒ Winter Uniform Orders have now CLOSED.
⇒ Over the next 5-8 weeks items will be arriving from our suppliers and will be distributed to the students.
⇒ PE polos will be distributed this week to students who have ordered them. The PE shorts are still in transit (major shipping issues due to the cyclone off Queensland....).
⇒ Please note new Uniform Shop Hours
  Monday Lunchtime 12:45-1:30
  Thursday 3:15 – 5:00 (later by appointment) or email uniform@mansfieldsc.edu.vic.au

STUDENT DROP OFF AT SCHOOL

For pedestrian safety we ask parents to please drop their child/ren off at the PAC (gravel) car park or the new car park at the playing fields (east end of View Street). Please do NOT use the school car park area.
Year 7 Local Excursion to the Pines

On 26 February 2015 as part of their local area studies Year 7 students went out to the Pines to listen to a talk about Indigenous culture in the local area. Tandy Annuscheit and her son Caleb, a student at the school, showed our students the ways in which the local people used natural materials both for their own daily needs and as produce for trading with other groups. They talked about the spiritual life of the people and how they moved to different areas of the district depending on season and available food sources. Feedback in class would suggest that the students found the excursion interesting and that they got a lot from it. We would like to thank Tandy and Caleb for giving up their time to share their knowledge.

Year 7 teachers

YOUTH HUB / SKATE PARK

Community Meeting

All interested community members are invited to attend a community meeting on the proposed Youth Hub / Skate Park development to be held at the Council Chamber on Thursday, 5 March from 6:00 – 7:00pm.

The meeting will inform interested community members on the current status as well as previously undertaken research into the development.

For more information phone Active Communities Officer, Dan Purcell on 5775 8555

CANTEEN ROSTER

REMINDER

Tue 10 Mar  Jo Noble
Wed 11 Mar  Debbie Mims

PANTS DOWN CIRCUS ROCK

A CIRCUS ROCK SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

MANSFIELD PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
Thursday 19 March. Doors 7pm, Show 7:30pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.ARTS.MANSFIELD.COM.AU OR AT THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE ON THE NIGHT

"THIS VIBRANT SHOW ENTERTAINED ITS AUDIENCE OF ALL AGES" ADVERTISER (AUS)

MANSFIELD SHIRE
Depression in Adolescents and Young People

Following on from the Mental Health Forum in Mansfield last week, the Wellbeing team at Mansfield Secondary College are keen to provide families with some information about recognising the signs and symptoms of depression in young people.

The onset of depression is often around mid-to-late adolescence and it is important to recognise the early warning signs. A lowered mood is often noticed prior to the onset of depression, so being aware of what to look out for can be helpful, as early intervention can often prevent the development of a severe depressive illness.

Signs of a depressed mood include:

- Lowered self esteem
- Changed sleep patterns
- Changes in weight or appetite
- Difficulty controlling emotions such as pessimism, anger, guilt, irritability and anxiety

Other signs and symptoms may develop over a longer period of time. They are also important to watch out for, and may include:

- Becoming socially withdrawn
- Withdrawing from, or showing less interest in previously enjoyable activities
- Falling in their performance at school
- Engaging in risk-taking behaviour (e.g. reckless driving, unsafe sexual activity)
- Engaging in drug and alcohol abuse.

Some of these might be thought of as ‘normal for an adolescent’, but if these signs are ongoing, it is worth checking out.

If you are concerned about a young person, there are people, pamphlets and online resources available:

At school, you are able to contact myself, Clare McDonald (School Counsellor) and Year Level Coordinators, GPs are well trained in the field of youth mental health and counsellors are available in Mansfield. Pamphlets and fact sheets are able at school, surgeries and community health centres and online websites such as blackdoginstitute.org.au and youthbeyondblue.com.au and reachout.com.au

Additionally, in order for teachers to better support students, informing year level coordinators of circumstances which may be upsetting a young person enables teachers to be sensitive to the needs of each individual student.

Chris Nicholls
Adolescent Health Nurse
The Comparative Advantage of Public School Graduates

State school graduates do better at university than private school graduates with the same end-of-school tertiary entrance score. That’s the clear finding in a number of Australian studies since the 1980s (Birch & Miller, 2007; Win & Miller, 2005; Dobson & Skuja, 2005; West, 1985), and in England since the 1990s (HEFCE, 2014; Smith & Naylor 2001, 2005).

The Australian research compared academic results at the end of first year at particular universities for cohorts whose entry was based on tertiary entrance scores (now ATAR) for the previous year in the same state. The most recent English research (HEFCE 2014) tracked all students who completed the end-of-school A-levels and went directly on to complete a full-time four-year degree course.

The differences between graduates of state and private schools were substantial (though less pronounced among those who did very well at university). The Australian research found that, on average, graduates of state schools received the same marks at the end of first-year University as graduates of private schools who had tertiary entrance scores around three to six points higher.

The English research found that at each A-level standard, on average around 7 percentage points more graduates of state schools than graduates of private schools received first class or second class, first division (upper second) honours degrees.

Research in both Australia (Birch & Miller, 2007) and England (HEFCE, 2014) also found that with the same tertiary entrance scores:

- graduates of co-educational schools tend to do better than graduates of single-sex schools
- graduates of lower-fee private schools (in Australia, Catholic schools) tend to do better than graduates of higher-fee private schools (in Australia, independent schools)
- graduates of schools with lower average tertiary entrance scores tend to do better than graduates of schools with higher average tertiary entrance scores
- graduates of (English) state comprehensive schools do better (to a small extent) than graduates of state selective schools.

The general finding is that graduates of non-elite and co-educational schools do better at university than graduates of socially and academically elite and single-sex schools who achieved the same tertiary entrance score.

(Preston, Barbera; Professional Voice, Volume 10 Issue 2, Australian Education Union, Summer 2015. The full article is available at http://www.aeuvic.asn.au/127301.html)

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First Aid / Sick Bay Medication Permission

The First Aid / Sick Bay at the College has a policy that no oral medication is to be given without parental permission (including paracetamol). If you are happy for the First Aid co-ordinator to give your child medication if it is considered necessary, could you please complete the form below and return it to the general office.

If you have returned one in previous years could you please do so again.

This policy DOES NOT include students who are administering their own medication at school on a regular basis.

I ………………………………………………………………………………………... give permission for my child ……………………………………………………………………… …….. to be given the following oral medication if required at school:

1 ……………………………………………………………………………..... 2 ……………………………………………………………………………
3 ……………………………………………………………………………..... 4 ……………………………………………………………………………

Parent Signature …………………………………………………………………………………….. Date ……………………………………………...