



No. 1 : 2 February 2024

From the Principal

Welcome back –

There has been a wonderful positive vibe all around the school since the students' return on Wednesday. I hope everyone had an enjoyable Christmas break and is looking forward to a fabulous year full of learning in 2024. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new teachers: Maryanne Jones, teaching Art, Humanities, Psychology and Food Tech; Nic Finn teaching Business Management, Yr 10 Science and the Vocational Major Literacy and Work Related Skills; Theo Magnisalis who is teaching Technology and VET Automotive (through the trade training centre in Ouyen), and I would like to welcome back Di Finn who is in a more permanent role teaching Food Studies, Health and Human Development and Kitchen Garden and Stephanie Morris who is also in a permanent role teaching Biology, Chemistry, Outdoor Education and Agriculture. It is fantastic to start the year with a full staff of outstanding teachers. Thanks also to Pete Sporn and our new cleaner Murray Schroeder for their work over the holidays to prepare for the students' return.

Building upgrades –

The process for the planned upgrades to the school are up to the Masterplan approval stage. Costing and tendering will come later and it is anticipated that the first works will start in November. At this point, stage 1 would include upgrading staff, secondary and primary toilets to make them all compliant and to cater for those with disabilities, resurfacing the outdoor courts and the gym, refurbishing the 'G' areas (general classrooms on the south side of the main building) and Year 12 room, refurbishing the Home Economics room and remodelling the administration area to ensure that it is compliant and wheelchair accessible. Costing and tendering may mean that we have to make adjustments to this plan however.

Covid & other illnesses –

Thankfully Covid is not causing the disruption to our lives that it did in the past, but it and other bugs are still present in our community. There are no set rules around Covid or reporting Covid anymore. We just ask that if students are feeling unwell (have symptoms such as fever, headaches, muscle aches, fatigue) that they stay home, if they have symptoms such as sniffles and coughs but otherwise feel well, it is fine for them to be at school. We will continue to use the air purifiers and encourage good hygiene at school.

Instrumental Music –

Music Alive from Loxton will again be offering instrumental music fortnightly at school. If your child would like to learn an instrument please let Mrs Inglis know.

Newsletters -

Will again be fortnightly in 2024, generally going home on a Friday depending on my movements and the school program. Our newsletter will again be supplemented by flyers, facebook posts, sms messages and emails. As always the website contains a wonderful wealth of information.

(Continued on next page)

Our new secondary students



Casey, Cara, Grace, Jael, Johanna, Caitlyn
Lachlan, Nate

Persistence Respect Independence Determination Excellence

Inspiring
PRIDE

Looking ahead –

We are very optimistic about 2024 and have an exciting and busy year planned for the students, with many opportunities for families to be involved in our programs and events. The first event that we would like to invite parents, carers and students to is our **Back to School BBQ and information night** to be held on **Tuesday 13th of February**. It is always fantastic to see parents, carers and extended family supporting the students at the **House Swimming Sports (Tuesday 22nd of Feb)**. We would love to see you there.

Anaphylaxis & Asthma -

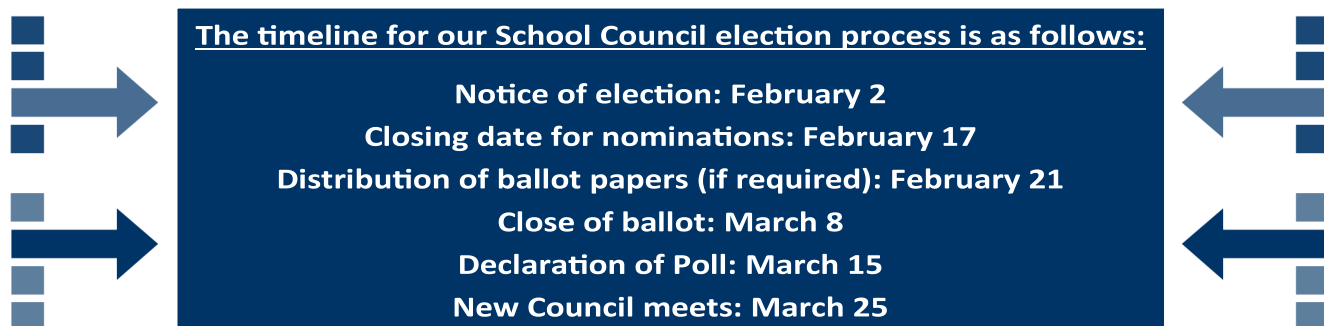
Just a reminder that we have students attending our school who could potentially have a fatal anaphylaxis attack from exposure to nuts. Although I can never guarantee that school is nut free, I ask that nuts and nut products are not brought to school. Students that have Asthma need to have a care plan, signed by their doctor, and their reliever medication (puffer) and spacer accessible to them at school, at all times.

Child Safety –

The staff and I take our obligations to Child Safety very seriously. All staff are trained as Mandatory reporters of Child Abuse. The Child Safety policy can be found on our website.

College Council Elections –

Although it feels as though we have just settled back into school, I need all parents to begin thinking about the 2024 College Council. As our school has grown smaller it has been getting increasingly difficult to fill the positions on College Council over the years and last year we successfully applied to reduce the number of School Councillors required. The tenure of a number of School Councillors is about to expire. The expiring parent reps are Kathryn Daniel, Sheryn Bennier and we lost Christine Wyatt during the year last year. The expiring staff rep is Brady Watson. We thank them all very much for their contribution to the college over the last two years. I implore all parents to please consider nominating for this very important role in our school community. The College cannot operate without a full council. It is important to note that if you have been on College Council previously, you can nominate again – this includes the members whose tenure is expiring. Nomination forms are available from the school and are also downloadable from the Council section of the school website. The timeline for this election is published below.



Communication & Feedback –

As a school we endeavour to maintain open lines of communication with parents about the things that are going on at school and welcome any feedback at any time. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's education please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Student records & Consent –

Coming home today with the newsletter is a Student Enrolment information form and permissions form. On the **white** Student Enrolment information form please check the student details and make any changes to address, phone and medical details etc. If all is correct please just initial and return to school. The **yellow** permissions form covers local excursions and publication of student names and photos etc. Please read this carefully and complete each section.

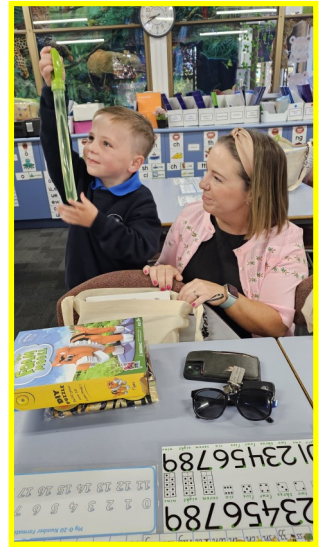
Learning Technology Agreements –

The Acceptable use agreements for technology will also come home today for parent signatures. We ask that you read this, sign it and return it to school. We will then go through the agreement with students at school and ensure that they understand it before they sign it also. Preps have already done theirs but students in Years 1-12 will need to do this next week.

My movements –

I will be taking some carer's leave from the 15th of February so Sonya Inglis will be in charge while I am away.

Natasha Mudie Principal



First day photos of our Prep students opening their bags with their families.

The theme in the Prep classroom this year is

Respectful Rainforest and Terrific Tigers

Pictured in the class photo above are

Ruby, Charley, Sophie, Leo and Eleanor



School procedures for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings and warnings are used in Victoria to provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life.

Schools and children's services listed on the DEECD Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) will be closed when a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined in their Bureau of Meteorology district.



Our school has been identified as being one of those at high bushfire risk and is listed on the BARR.

Where possible, we will provide parents with up to four days notice of a potential Code Red day closure by letter and SMS message. A Code Red day will be determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner no later than 1.00 pm the day before the potential closure. Once we are advised of the confirmation of the Code Red day we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Code Red day.
- School camps and excursions will be cancelled if a Code Red fire danger rating day is determined for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located.

As a bus co-ordinating school all bus routes will be cancelled.

On these Code Red days families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan – **on such days children should never be left at home or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the CFA advise that when Code Red days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Code Red day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have recently updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed.

Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, by checking our website www.murrayvillecc.vic.edu.au and by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.

Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.

If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

CANTEEN PRICE LIST as at 31/1/24



SANDWICHES

FILLING	PRICE
Ham	\$2.50
Ham & Cheese	\$3.00
Cheese	\$2.00
Cheese & Tomato	\$3.00
Ham, Cheese & Tomato	\$4.00
Tomato	\$2.00
Vegemite	\$1.50
Ham & Cheese Toastie	\$2.50

DRINKS

Iced chocolate/strawberry/coffee	\$1.60
Juice box	\$1.00

SNACKS

Zooper Dooper	50¢
Billabongs	\$1.50
Frozen yoghurt (tub)	\$2.50
Chips - large	\$1.80
LCMs	\$1.00
Roll-ups	60¢

HOT FOODS

Pies / Pasties (Mrs Macs)	\$4.50
Sausage roll (Mrs Macs)	\$3.50
Party pie 60g	\$1.20
Sauce	20¢
Pizzas - Ham & Pineapple / Cheese & Bacon	\$2.50

Sandwiches & Hot Foods



... IMPORTANT ...

**ALL orders to be placed at
the front office**

BEFORE SCHOOL

**Please write name and
what is required on a
plain envelope**

(available from school)

**containing payment -
students may order at the
front desk without
an envelope.**



COLLEGE CALENDAR

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the first peoples and traditional custodians of the lands where we



live, learn and work. We pay our respects to the Elders, both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Indigenous Australians.

13/2	BBQ & Information Evening
20/2	House Swimming
26/2	College Council
28/2	Mallee Div Swimming : Secondary
4/3	Immunisation
6/3	Sunraysia South Swimming : Primary
12/3	Regional Swimming : Swan Hill
13/3	NAPLAN commences
18-22/3	Canberra Trip : Years 7-12
25/3	College Council
28/3	Term 1 ends
29/3	Good Friday
15/4	Term 2 commences
17/4	School Photos
9/5	Mallee Division Cross Country
28/5	Regional Cross Country
10/6	King's Birthday

T
H
I
N
K

Is it **T** True

Is it **H** Helpful

Is it **I** Inspiring

Is it **N** Necessary

Is it **K** Kind

Smooth seas
do not make
skilful sailors

Communicating respectfully online is an important skill to develop when becoming a positive digital citizen.

The acronym **T.H.I.N.K** can provide a good check-in prompt before deciding to act.

esmart.org.au