



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Being the Best You Can Be

Our classrooms will be regularly visited by Greg Mitchell this year. Greg will be working with our staff and students to optimize their experience at Swan Hill College.

Last week Greg worked mostly with the Year 7 students, building on their ability to work with each other and their self-confidence. At the end of the lesson each student was asked to go to a teacher in the room and tell them what they had learnt. One amazing young lady came to me and told me she had learnt that she needed to be more confident in her abilities. She was right, as she had just managed to recite everyone's name and their favourite food from a room of 22 people.

### School Council

The College has two two-year vacancies for parent representatives and a two-year vacancy for a community member on its School Council. If you would like to be part of the decision making process at the College, we encourage you to nominate to be a parent representative. Training and support is available for those who have no experience but would like to be involved. Please contact Cindy Hogan at the College for a nomination form. Nomination forms must be received at the College by 4pm, Tuesday 12 March.

### School Photos

School photographs were taken this week. If you would like to order school photos you can still do so by accessing the Leading Image website. You will need the 'shoot keys' on the envelope, which you would have received last week. If you have lost your envelope 'shoot keys' can be obtained from the front office at school.

### Communication

One thing I was very happy with last year was that our data for communication with families was rising. In 2019 I have asked staff to further increase the communication with home. Families can access specific information about their students from DayMap and can obtain more general school-wide information from Facebook. We will also have a new Website in a few weeks to replace our current one. I would hope that many of you have seen an increase in emails, text messages and phone calls with reminders about work and student effort.

Andrew Sartori - Principal

## New PBS Expectations

This year we have launched our new Positive Behaviour Expectations at each Year Level assembly. We'd like to thank staff, students and parents for working with us to refresh the matrix that had been around for a number of years.

A clear set of agreed behavioural expectations have been developed around our key school values of:

**RESPECT**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**BELONGING**  
**HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

Throughout the year we focus on teaching these expectations and rewarding students who follow them.

## LITERACY AT SWAN HILL COLLEGE

At Swan Hill College we are committed to improving the literacy levels of our students. As well as ensuring teachers possess the necessary understanding and skills to teach the literacy necessary for their subjects through our Professional Learning Communities, we run specific programs in Years 7 and 8 to support all students.

### Year 7 and 8 Reading Program:

All Year 7 and 8 classes are timetabled into the Learning Centre once a week. This room is well stocked with books and is close to our library to facilitate student borrowing. During these designated reading lessons, a reading teacher explicitly focuses on reading comprehension skills and with the assistance of the classroom teacher, designs appropriate learning activities for the range of reading abilities we have in every classroom. Myself, Julie Rovere and Sarah Sutton are the expert teachers timetabled into each Year 7 and 8 class. Having two teachers in the classroom greatly increase opportunities for students to read aloud and participate in reading circles, and ensures those who need extending or support are catered for. Testing twice a year, as well as the observations made by teachers, inform the lessons as well.

### Literacy Support Program:

Since 2016 we have run an intensive literacy program targeting students who are well below expected levels in reading. When students are two or more years behind their peers in reading, they often struggle in all of the

subjects they study, as well as suffer from low learning confidence. Our program assists students to develop their reading fluency and comprehension skills in small groups in a withdrawal program three times a week. Led by Carla Cox and including Janene Scott and Sarah Sutton, this hardworking team use the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System to assess students' reading levels. Identified students will sit this test over the next few weeks and parents of those who are deemed in most need of assistance will be contacted prior to their child starting the program. If you have any questions please contact Carla Cox.

### What can you do to help?

The most important way to help your child is to encourage them to read at least 20 minutes every day. This reading should be separate from that required to complete homework (and doesn't include text messages, social media updates or emails.) Students can read novels, newspapers, magazines, manga and other visual texts, poetry, short stories or works of non-fiction (information texts).

Also, if you have books suitable for teenagers that are just gathering dust, think about donating them to our school. They would be much appreciated. If you can, please leave them at the front office.

Lisa Gilby, Learning Leader - Literacy

## VICTORIAN CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE

An application on behalf of a student may be submitted if the student is:

- a Victorian resident;
- school aged and enrolled (3) three or more days per week at a school; and
- attending a school/campus located outside the Melbourne metropolitan conveyance boundary

A student who meets the above requirements may be eligible if they:

- attend their nearest or designated neighbourhood government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, or
- attend their nearest appropriate non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level, at which admission is permissible, and
- reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from the campus attended

**Note:** Eligibility is assessed when the School completes your child's application on the Student Conveyance Allowance System (SCAS). If approved, the allowance payable is based on the one-way distance to make the journey to and from school. No private car allowance is payable if the journey to and from school could be made using a public transport service or contract school bus. For further information regarding the Conveyance Allowance Program see: [www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/travel-school.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/parents/going-to-school/Pages/travel-school.aspx)

Application forms can be obtained from the general office and close on February 28, 2019.

## YEAR 7 "MEET THE TEACHERS' NIGHT"

Swan Hill College is running a "Meet the Teachers" night for all Year 7 students and their parents on Monday the 26th February, 6pm in Harrison Hall. This is an opportunity to chat with the teachers about your child's transition into secondary school while enjoying a free BBQ.

Information regarding this evening was sent home on the first day of school. Please ensure you return the RSVP slip at the bottom of the letter to the Junior School by February 21st for catering purposes.

## SWAN HILL COLLEGE CALENDAR 2019

February 21-22	Year 7 Clontarf induction camp
February 22	Interschool Swimming Sports
February 26	Year 7 meet the teacher BBQ, 6pm in Harrison Hall
February 28	Year 7A,B,C bonding day
March 1	Year 7D,E,F,G bonding day
March 13	VCE Drama Top Class excursion in Melbourne
March 19	Year 10 Choose Survival period 5 & 6