

STRONG MINDS COMPASSIONATE HEARTS

From the Principal

John M Freeman Principal



Kildare College Diamond Jubilee Reunion



Last Saturday we hosted the Kildare College Jubilee Reunion at the Kildare campus. This was a wonderful initiative by the organising committee (listed below) that saw close to 400 people in attendance, including many of the Brigidine Sisters who served at the Kildare College between 1958 to 1988.

The success of the day was in large part due to the organising committee consisting of: Josie Montano (Chair), Jenny Sutton, Jacki Seers, Carmel Matheson, Jan Massaro-Chandler and Silvana Summerfield. I know from conversations with committee members that many hours went in to making this day success.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Lavalla Catholic College staff for their contribution in assisting the committee, in particular: Rob Tarraran, Michael Hansen, Michael Cleef, Kellyann Armstrong, Lee McKenzie and Jenny Sutton (who served on the committee and was the key liaison person on behalf of the the school).

I also want to acknowledge the students who volunteered their time, in particular Madeleine Whiting (Year 12), who helped out all day whilst adorned in the Kildare College uniform.



Commissioning Mass

Please note that our Commissioning Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, 28 February 2019, at 9.30am, and will be held in the Champagnat Centre on our St Paul's Campus. You are all very welcome to attend.

Staff News

Dominic De Van Der Schueren was injured in an accident on the weekend. Whilst he was initially hospitalised because of his injuries he was discharged on Tuesday and is currently at home. At this stage it is not clear when he will be able to resume full duties at work. I ask that you please keep Dominic and his family in your prayers whilst he recovers.

We welcome Miss Megan Stewart-North to the teaching staff. She will be based at the St Paul's campus and will be taking English, Humanities and Food classes.

Student News

Today the second group of our Year 7 students returned from their camp at Tynong North, with the first group spending three days at the Mill Valley Ranch last week. I had the opportunity to visit both groups and I know from both talking to our new students and reports back from staff who attended the camp that these were enjoyable experiences and a great way to form new friendships and strengthen current ones. Well done to Ms Roma Valentine and Mrs Tina Weston, along with all the team, for their great work.

More details will be available in our next Newsletter, but congratulations to Champagnat House on winning the Senior Swimming carnival yesterday. Good luck to all the Houses at the Junior campus who compete on Monday.

Welcome Evening

This year we will hold our Welcome Evening at the St Paul's campus from 4.00pm to 6.00pm on Tuesday, 26 February. We usually have a large turnout from Year 7 families, but in the last few years a number of parents with students in other year levels have attend to meet their child's teacher, particularly those undertaking VCAL and VCE for the first time.

Everyone is welcome to attend and say hello and talk about the year ahead.

Buildings

The construction of our new Administration Building and Library is progressing well and at this stage we envisage taking possession in early August. The building will mark a new entry point to the school and it will be the main administration and finance centre for the College, with the staff from the current St Paul's campus Administration and Marcellin House Finance team working in the new space. The administration section will also accommodate the Principal's main office, previously at Marcellin House, as well other members of the College's Leadership Team.

The other section of the building will be a new library, that will also incorporate two classrooms that can be used separately or as a seminar space.





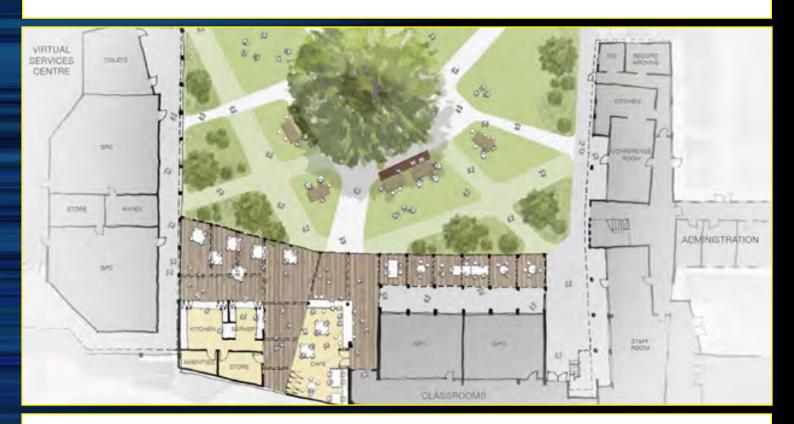




Ground Floor 3D

First Floor 3D

The other major construction project for the school this year will be a new canteen placed on the south side of the Kildare campus. Included will be covered seating areas and landscaping of the area around the oak tree. Currently builders are completing their tender submissions which are due mid-March, with building commencing most likely after Easter.



New Australian Government Data Collection

Currently all schools are completing the mandated the 2019 Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection. This data is being collected to assist the Australian Government to move towards a fairer, needsbased funding model for non-government schools.

The Department of Education and Training has requested that schools send parents the following information – 2019 Student Residential Address and Other Information collection notice and Frequently Asked Questions, which will provide additional information about the data collection.

These documents are attached to this Newsletter.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

CSEF and Drought Relief

As part of the Victorian Government's drought assistance package, all Lavalla Catholic College students who live within the Wellington or East Gippsland Shires are eligible for a drought assistance payment through the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

This includes parents and independent students who do not hold a means-tested concession card, but are experiencing financial hardship as a result of drought conditions. Families who receive the means-tested CSEF payment are also eligible. A 'one off' amount of \$375 per student will be paid to the school to be used towards educational expenses for the direct benefit of your child.

How to apply

Complete a CSEF drought package application form and return it to the Finance Officer.

Link to student application forms and school template for drought relief:

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/finance/Pages/csefschools.aspx

Rell Times

The school day for both campuses begins with the first bell at **8.45am**. A full list of bell times is included in today's newsletter. The day concludes at **3.15pm**.

Homeroom/LA

Homeroom commences at **8.50am** and it is essential that all students arrive in time to start the day together.

Students begin the day in prayer with their teacher and classmates. Important messages, handing out of permission forms and the pastoral program occur at this time. Students complete activities from the student planner that is a compulsory item each year.

These activities are about developing friendships, resilience, organisation and health and wellbeing. Please ensure that your child arrives at school in time to participate in this aspect of College life.

Attendance

Included in today's newsletter is an article called Every Day Counts. This article is about the importance of every child attending school regularly and missing school as little as possible. If your child is going to be absent from school, it is important to notify the school (please see details below).

Calling Students

If you need to speak to your child during the school day, please contact administration at your child's campus and a message can be given to your child.

We do not encourage the use of mobile phones during the day. These can be a distraction, especially during class time.

Student Absences

If your child is going to be absent for the day, please notify the campus as soon as possible. An SMS system is employed to send messages when we have not been informed of a child's absence.

If you are planning an extended absence (e.g. family holiday), please contact the appropriate campus to arrange for an interrupted studies form to be completed.

Contact details for each campus are as follows:

St Paul's Campus - Phone (03) 51747355 or email: administration_s@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Kildare Campus - Phone (03) 51748111 or email: administration_k@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Uniform

Soft shell jacket: At the end of 2018, Mr Freeman wrote to all of our College families regarding the introduction of the soft shell jacket. This item is replacing the rugby top and spray jacket which are no longer in production. The soft shell jacket is a piece of the PE uniform. It is not to be worn with the summer or winter uniforms except as a wet weather layer. The rugby top and spray jacket can continue to be worn until the end of 2021.

Summer Dresses/Kilts: A reminder that the dress/kilt should be knee length and any alterations made to uniform items should ensure that they are still able to reach the knee.

Socks: Plain socks (white for girls, grey for boys) are to be worn with the summer uniform during terms 1 & 4. White socks (which may have a small logo) are to be worn with the PE uniform. Please ensure that your child/ren have the correct colour socks with their uniform.

Parenting Ideas

Throughout the year, articles and vouchers for webinars from Parenting Ideas will be included in the newsletter. These can include useful insights into helping your child navigate through issues with mental health, friendships and school life.





Bell Times

Period	Time	Duration
First Bell	8:45	
Homeroom/LA	8:50 – 9:08	18 mins
Period 1	9:10 - 10:08	58 mins
Period 2	10:10 – 11:08	58 mins
Recess	11:08 – 11:28	20 mins
Period 3	11:33 – 12:31	58 mins
Period 4	12:33 – 1:31	58 mins
Lunch 1	1:31 – 1:51	20 mins
Lunch 2	1:51 – 2:12	21 mins
Period 5	2:17 – 3:15	58 mins

Thursday 1

Period	Time	Duration
First Bell	8:45	
Extended Homeroom/ Student Choice	8:50 – 9:28	38 mins
Period 1	9:30 – 10:24	54 mins
Period 2	10:26 – 11:20	54 mins
Recess	11:20 – 11:40	20 mins
Period 3	11:45 – 12:39	54 mins
Period 4	12:41 – 1:35	54 mins
Lunch 1	1:35 – 1:55	20 mins
Lunch 2	1:55 – 2:16	21 mins
Period 5	2:21 – 3:15	54 mins

The Lavalla Catholic College community embraces students, staff, families and all who are connected. In some cases the relationships are at the core business of the college. IN other cases the relationships might be more removed and, perhaps, temporary. Nevertheless, the lifeblood of Lavalla Catholic College is relationships.

One aspect of our relationships that we needs lifelong care is our relationship with God. God seems remote today, not relevant to what we do, and hardly in our consciousness. That is why the next few weeks at Lavalla offer some great opportunities.

Meet Maddison Knowles



Maddison is the very impressive Liturgy Leader for the College for 2019. This dynamic, young adult values her leadership role. Her vision is to create more connections within the college body, staff and students, and across the two campuses. She is a passionate about netball and basket. She has already run two liturgies and a morning prayer on love on Valentine's Day for students

and staff. And this is just the beginning of the year. She brings force, energy and joy to liturgy and prayer.

Commissioning Mass

On Thursday 28 February, the College leaders at Kildare and St Paul's will be commissioned together with Mr Chris Denny, Director of Digital Technology at the Commissioning Mass. Fr James Fernandez

(Morwell) and Fr Harry Dyer (Moe-Newborough) will celebrate the whole college Mass in the Champagnat Centre at 9.30 am.

We congratulate all leaders in the college, and indeed the whole college body, for we are all called to lead and be examples for one another.

Remar Embark

The following students will go to Allembee on the Remar Embark (Red, Blue, Gold) from 3.30 on Friday till 2.30 on Sunday. They will be led by Mr Alex Rathbone, Ms jasmine Santamaria, Mrs Jenny Sutton, Mr Leigh Winter, Ms Karina Taylor and Ms Teresa Dixon. We wish them a rich experience of fun and leadership:

Gold: Madalynne Lyons, Rohan Symonds, Sarah van den Brand, Madelaine Whiting.

Blue: Ayva van der Velden, Jye Tactor, Emily Liang, Hollie Gooding, Alexis Stewart, Niamh Williams, Nathan Stokes, Tianna Goodwin, Grayson Barnes, Joshua Neilson, Natasha Richards.

Red: Digira Konyi, Adhieu Malual, Angus Hourigan, Latoya Martinez- Dasilva, Caitlyn sorby, emma van den Brand, Akisha Wills, Coenrad Marx, Zac O'Connor, Madeline Russell.

Launch of Project Compassion

Project Compassion will be launched for the diocese of Sale at St Peter's Cranbourne, on Shrove Tuesday, 5th March. More information will follow in the next bulletin.



The focus on Habits of Excellence and 'Begin with the end in Mind' will begin with earnest this coming week. Please ensure that you speak with your children about their future goals and how they can strive to achieve these.

On Monday 4th March, our Well-Being Team will host a number of other school well-being colleagues as part of a professional learning event on School Refusers and how we can support these young people and their families.

This Professional Learning Event will be delivered by John Chellew, Director of the Bayside School Refusal Clinic located in Frankston. After this event, we hope to run an information session for parents/guardians of any student within the Latrobe Valley community. Therefore, if you are aware of a family experiencing this issue, please keep them informed of our future event.

Child Protection Committee & Mobile Phone Committee

Dear Parents/Guardians, I am hoping to continue our workshops on both Child Protection within our community and the creation of a Mobile Phone policy and procedure for our College. I would envisage that we would meet three times in the year during school hours for maybe a two-hour period. These workshops would be hands-on with activities and discussions. I would love if we could have some parents/guardians to be part of either committee for 2019.

I currently have some parents who have kindly volunteered, but if any of these topics interest you, please contact me via email: dohedoul@lavalla.vic. edu.au

(Enter the other information that Kelly sent you here.)

Operations

There are many key events coming up in the next few

weeks. Next week we have the St. Paul's Swimming Carnival on 25th February.

I would also like to warmly invite all parents/guardians to our informal Welcome Evening on 26th February at the St. Paul's Campus. It will take place between 4:00 and 6:00pm, during which time you can come and go as you please. This is an opportunity for you as a parent/guardian to come and meet your child's teachers within an informal setting.

There will be a free BBQ and we encourage you to come and tell us something about your child that you feel will help us in developing positive relationships. I hope to see you all there, I will probably be behind the BBQ cooking with the rest of Leadership, come and say G'Day.'

The Commissioning mass to welcome new students, student leaders and staff to our College will take place on Thursday 28th February from 9:30 – 11:00am at the Champagnat Centre, St. Paul's Campus. This is a compulsory event and therefore all students are expected to be present and a register will be taken.

Shrove Tuesday

On the 5th March, each campus will be cooking and selling pancakes for either REMAR (Senior Campus) or Project Compassion (Junior Campus).

Please encourage your children to bring money to enjoy the pancakes and support these great causes. Ash Wednesday liturgies will take place on Wednesday 6th at each campus during a lesson time. This is a great opportunity for our community to focus on how they will personally prepare for the greatest Christian event – Easter.

There are a significant amount of excursions taking place, please check the College calendar on the website for further information.



Jaymen Stott Developments



Matthew Roberts Engineering



Tyler Mudita Contracting Kings





achlan Patterson Kingys Electrical



Benjamin Ayres Pro Mara Builders



Lachlan Bormann Szkwarek Builders



Liam Willaton **BDB Builders**

Riley Evans

Cornerstone

Pioneer



Nicholas Graham Ace Earthmoving

NAMED & KNOWN

Success is key for our community and it is important that we name and know those who have left us recently to pursue their career through employment or apprenticeship. Congratulations to those listed above.



2018 ITALIAN AWARDS PRESENTATION

At the end of last year, due to circumstances beyond our control, the following students were mot presented with the prizes (sponsored by the Italian Australian Coordinating Committee of Gippsland) which accompany the Italian Awards. The prizes were presented to the students last week.

Year 7 (2018) Miles Verschuur

Year 8 (2018) Lucy Chilver and Abbey Pianta

Year 9 (2018) Angela Francolino

Year 10 (2018) Nathanael Duffy

Year 11 (2018) Julien Alesi

We would like to thank the Committee for their ongoing support to the study of Italian at our College.





MEET THE SCIENTIST

The "Meet a Scientist" Event at the Royal Women's Hospital was attended by 4 lucky students on Monday 11th Feb.

As you can see from their summaries below they thoroughly enjoyed the day and felt empowered by the experience.

With what started off with an early venture to 'The Women's - Royal Women's Hospital,' a day of learning and meeting new people was just around the corner.

A group of well-educated and accommodating

scientists from 'The Women's' demonstrated laboratory and clinical practises, informed us of their journeys into medicine and their roles at the Women's; as well as gave us some extremely valuable career and subject advice.

Before meeting these women and learning just some of the things a scientist and/or medical student does every day, I had no idea that what people like Sue Matthews and her team of educated and curious women do and how they endeavour to make everyday life increasingly better for every person possible. Little did I know that due to these scientists discoveries and research, we have the available sources we have







MEET THE SCIENTIST

today and are able to live the lives we do now.

Eliza Colgrave (lab-based PhD student, researching endometriosis), Robyn Matthews (clinical and research midwife), Dr Michelle Peate (Psychological Health and Wellbeing Researcher, specialising in Obstetrics and Gynaecology), just to name a few, were some of the ladies who ran sessions and informed us of the importance of choosing your own path, going into medicine with an open mind (because you probably won't come out doing what you thought you would in the beginning) and the hardworking ethics you need to soldier through 10 years + of studying.

Overall, the sessions combined, with the valuable insights shared over the morning tea and lunch breaks, have led me realise that working as hard as these women do and continually learning is perhaps a future for myself and many other girls who attended from across the Gippsland and Melbourne areas too.

Emma Van Den Brand -Year 12

During this event we looked closely into the areas of newborn ventilation, endometriosis and HPV testing along with learning about all the different roles and career paths in women's science.

During the newborn ventilation session we learnt about the ways and tools used to assist newborns, especially premature newborns with their ventilation after birth. We got to use the ventilation tools on a model baby to pump air into its lungs.

During the HPV testing session we learnt about how the testing works and got to perform a mock testing. We were also told how the HPV vaccination has significantly reduced its cases of HPV in Australia. During the Endometriosis session we learnt about endometriosis and how it is currently diagnosed along with how research is trying to improve new ways to diagnose it.

In the research poster session we spoke to one midwife who told us how she's been collecting evidence to prove that for aboriginal expectant mothers to have only one midwife during their pregnancy and not a new midwife every doctors appointment it's been shown to lower their premature birth rate and just the mothers general overall health during their

pregnancy and after birth. This midwife is hoping for it to become 'the norm' with all aboriginal expectant mothers to have that one midwife solely assist them throughout their pregnancy's and during birth, in the coming years, and not just for the people who can afford private midwifes.

Across the other sessions we also learnt about all the women behind these jobs and how they worked their way to where they are; showing all us young women that we could be like them and that there are so many different areas in science for women to study and be apart of. Today was definitely a worthwhile experience and opened my eyes up to all the very different areas in medical science.

Tarra Nixon -Year 10

Going to The Royal Women's Hospital on Monday 11th for the 'Meet A Scientist' event was not only inspiring but liberating. Seeing women stick together to create a comforting environment for women that are any age, any race or with any health condition was exciting to see. In this hospital, not only do you see hard work, brains, determination and achievements; but also love, compassion, consideration and care. This hospital is very encouraging for any field of healthcare or science to women all over Victoria.

Attending the 'Meet A Scientist' event made girls feel as though that achieving your dreams in science or in health were defiantly achievable with hard work and dedication to succeed. The women taught girls that if you fail the first time or do not get to where you want to be, then there are ALWAYS other paths to take or different alternatives.

Any woman going into the health or science departments should take one piece of advice that the CEO, Dr Sue Matthews, of The Royal Woman's Hospital had said towards the ending of the event:

"Know that it will not be easy, don't let people tell you that it will be, because it isn't. Instead, let them tell you that it will be worth it."

Keisha Roy - Year 10



CALENDAR

Monday February 25

- St Paul's Swimming Carnival
- Year 12 Geography Trip

Tuesday February 26

- Parent Welcome Evening St Paul's Campus
- Year 12 Geography Trip

Thursday February 28

Commissioning Mass - 9.30am

Tuesday March 5

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday March 6

- Ash Wednesday
- Parent Information Santa Teresa NT

2nd Land Uniform Shop St Paris Campus

Opening Times 3.30pm - 6.00pm

DATES

7th March 21st March 4th April

Library News

Lavalla Catholic College Library is now Instagram official. Starting in February 2019, the school library has an Instagram page, lavalla_library. This page will showcase all that our library has to offer and is aimed at



students and parents, along with prospective families. By developing a social media presence for the library, students and their families will be able to keep up to date with the arrival of new books, competitions and activities taking place in the library.

We have some very exciting times coming in the near future including a new library building [St Pauls campus] due to open mid-2019, a transition which we are looking forward to sharing with our Lavalla community. When on Instagram, please take a moment to follow us. You will notice that you are unable to comment, however you can still 'like' our posts. You can search for our username:

lavalla_library or scan our nametag.

Unidentified School Fees

We have received <u>several unidentified BPAY</u> <u>payments</u> recently that cannot be traced.

These payments have been returned to the Payees's bank as we are not able to receive sufficient information to contact the Payee.

Please contact the Finance Officer, Colleen Earl at Marcellin House on **5175 8209** if you require any further information regarding these, or other BPAY payments.

email: earlcol1@lavalla.vic.edu.au

Monday March 11

LABOUR DAY - Public Holiday

CANTEEN MENU - St Paul's Campus

CHICKEN BURGER - SPICY OR PLAIN WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO CHEESE & MAYO			\$5.00	
NACHOS - CORN CH	IIPS, SALSA, CHEESE & SOUR CREAN WITH GUACOMOLI			\$4.00 \$5.00
BBC BURGER – BEEF E	BURGER WITH BACON,CHEESE & BE	Q SAUCE		\$5.00
	COS LETTUCE, CROUTONS, BACON AND DRESSING			\$4.00
VIETNAMESE RICE PAR	PER ROLLS - (2) WITH DIPPING SAL	JCE		\$4.50
CHICKEN TENDER ROLL – SWEET CHILLI OR SALT & VINEGAR			\$2.50	
BAKED SPUD – SPUD WITH BUTTER, CHEESE, SOUR CREAM, BACON & COLESLAW		\$6.00		
BLAT – BACON,LETTU	CE, AVOCADO ,TOMATO &MAYO C	N A TURKISH BUN		\$5.00
POTATO CAKE - IN A ROLL CHICKEN WEDGES	\$1.00 \$2.00	SAUSAGE ROLL PIE	\$3.00 \$4.00	
GOUJONS	\$2.00	STEAMED DIM SIM	0.50c	
HASH BROWN - IN A ROLL	0.50c \$1.50	BREAKIE WRAP	\$3.50	
PIZZA TOASTY	\$1.50	POTATO GEMS	\$1.00	

GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

\$3.00

POTATO GEMS \$1.00 bag

HASH BROWNS \$0.50c

VIETNAMESE RICE

HOTDOG

PAPER ROLLS \$4.50

BAKED SPUD \$6.00

NACHOS \$4.00

SALAD TUBS

with ham or chicken \$5.00

CAESAR SALAD

(no croutons) \$4.00

CHICKEN TENDER \$1.50 each

CHICKEN NUGGETS \$0.50c each

RED ROCK DELI CHIPS \$1.00

GF COOKIE \$0.50c

GF BREAD IS AVAILABLE TO MAKE SANDWICHES

Eg. EGG &BACON SANDWICH \$4.00



CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) - DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

Program Background	As part of the Victorian Government's Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) is being students attending a Victorian government within two designated drought-affected Central Gippsland (see below). This includes that do not hold a means-tested concess hardship as a result of drought conditions. Families who receive the means tested 'one-off' drought assistance payment.	ng extended to all primary and secondary nt or non-government school or residing a Local Government Areas in East and udes parents and independent students sion card, but are experiencing financial states.	
Which Local Government Areas are eligible for this assistance?	Schools located within the following Local Government Areas:		
	Wellington	East Gippsland	
Who is eligible?	Students attending a registered Victorian government and non-government school within these areas will be eligible for funding through the drought assistance package. The funding will be paid to the school at which the student is enrolled and attending on the first day of term one, 2019 (30 January, 2019 ^t		

what are schools required	το
do?	

Government & Non-Government schools:

- **1.** Parents and independent students are required to complete a Drought Assistance application form and lodge the form at the school. Application forms are to be retained by the school.
- **2.** The school then completes and emails the endorsed spreadsheet with details of students on applications received to csef@edumail.vic.gov.au.
- **3.** Based on the spreadsheet details, DET will make a bulk payment into the school's bank account.
- **4.** The school will be required to allocate the funding directly to benefit the eligible student. The school should communicate with their school community about how the funding will be allocated.

The school will need to ensure that system records are maintained demonstrating how the funding has been allocated for each individual student.





How will schools be required to allocate the funding?	The Drought Assistance funding is paid to the school that the student attends to be used towards camps, sports, excursion and/or other education expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. Some examples of programs for which the funding may be used include: • School camps/trips • Swimming and other school-organised sporting programs • Outdoor education programs • Excursions/incursions • If there are no camps, sports or excursion related expenses, the payment may be allocated towards other school-based education expenses incurred by the family*. * These guidelines only apply to the Drought Assistance funding (not the CSEF payment which is paid separately and is subject to CSEF policy). The Drought Assistance funding cannot be used towards voluntary school charges.
What records are schools required to keep?	Government schools – will need to allocate funding to eligible student's charges in CASES21. For assistance with CASES21 receipting of the Drought Assistance funding, schools should contact the DET service desk on 1800 641 943. Non-government schools – will need to maintain records indicating how the funding has been allocated for each eligible student. For audit purposes, schools may be asked to provide DET with written confirmation of how the funding has been allocated. Schools need to retain the Drought Assistance application forms for 7 years.
When will schools receive the funding?	The one-off payment to schools will be made from February 2019 onwards. The program ceases on 28 June 2019 (end of term two).
Students changing schools	If the student transfers to another Victorian school, the default position is that the value of any unspent portion of the funding should follow to the student's new school, so that the student has access to the full value of the payment.
Students leaving the Victorian school system	If the student leaves the Victorian school system, the value of any unspent portion of the funding will remain with the school and may be used towards expenses for other family siblings, or school-incurred costs associated with operating camps, sports or excursion activities for students.





EVERY DAY COUNTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your teenager's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR TEENAGER IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE & VCAL, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12 and post-school pathways.

Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance. Even in the middle years, when school can seem the most challenging for students and when attendance rates can be at their lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. **Every day counts**.

Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 – 17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your teenager have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.







Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission or skip out of school during the day. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences can effect academic performance, DET's statistics show that unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

School refusal - School refusing children experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: My child or teenager has anxiety

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR 1 DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your teenager is away

If for any reason your teenager must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Inform the school via your teen's Form/Home Room teacher or Year Level Coordinator
- Find out what work your teenager needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teenager's teacher and ensure they complete the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your teenager must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your teenager's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your teenager, please let the year level coordinator, wellbeing coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your teen to school every day.

TOP ATTENDANCE TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- · Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term







• Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: <u>Student attendance</u>.







For parents/guardians of students:

2019 Student Residential Address and Other Information collection notice

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department), to advise you that the department has requested that your child's school provide a statement of addresses, in accordance with the Australian Education Regulation 2013 (Cth) (Regulation).

A statement of addresses contains the following information about each student at the school:

- Student residential address (not student names)
- Student level of education (i.e. whether the student is a primary or secondary student)
- Student boarding school status (i.e. whether the student is boarding or a day student)
- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and/or guardian(s)

Schools generate a record number for each student for the purposes of this collection, which is also provided to the department.

Purpose of the collection

This collection is routinely used to inform Commonwealth school education policy, and to help ensure that Commonwealth funding arrangements for non-government schools are based on need, and are fair and transparent.

On 20 September 2018 the Government announced that it will implement a new, improved capacity to contribute methodology used in the calculation of the Commonwealth's needs-based funding arrangements for non-government schools. This follows a review of the existing socio-economic status (SES) score methodology by the National School Resourcing Board. Further information about the review and the Government's response can be found here: https://www.education.gov.au/review-socio-economic-status-ses-score-methodology.

The information collected in the *statement of addresses* will be used to refine the new capacity to contribute methodology and may also be used in school funding calculations from 2020.

Use and disclosure of personal information

Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth). Any use and disclosure of your personal information relating to the *statement of addresses* will occur in accordance with the Regulation.

Your personal information may be used by the department, or disclosed to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), for the purposes of SES score policy development, reviewing SES score methodology, calculating SES scores, Commonwealth school education policy development (including school funding), or where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

For example, your personal information may be provided to the ABS for statistical and research purposes, which includes data integration projects such as the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Further information on the MADIP can be found here:

http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/9099c77cb979d558ca258198001b27a0/\$FILE/MADIP%20iPIA 2018.pdf.

The department may, from time to time, carry out audits of school submissions. In the event of an audit, contracted auditors may seek to compare a school's *statement of addresses* with student enrolment information held by the school. These contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

The department may also be required to disclose your personal information to its service providers, including the Australian Government Department of Jobs and Small Business, for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology (ICT) support services to the department.



What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the requested details to the department, however, you may wish to ensure that your school has the most up-to-date and correct details for your family.

Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the process of the address collection.

If you have any further questions regarding the collection, you can contact the department by:

- Email: seshelpdesk@education.gov.au
- Phone (free call): SES helpdesk on 1800 677 027 (Option 4)

The department's privacy policy is available on the department's website at www.education.gov.au. The privacy policy contains information about:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about breaches of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) can be made; and
- how the department will deal with these complaints.



For parents/guardians of students:

Frequently Asked Questions – 2019 Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection

What do I need to do?

Your school will provide the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department) with the information that is required as part of the Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the address collection).

The only thing you need to do is to ensure that your school has up-to-date:

- residential address details for your child(ren)
- parent and/or guardian names and addresses.

Please do not send this information to the department.

What information is being collected?

Schools provide the following information about each student to the department:

- Student residential address (not student names)
- Student level of education (i.e. whether the student is a primary or secondary student)
- Student boarding school status (i.e. whether the student is boarding or a day student)
- Names and residential addresses of students' parent(s) and/or guardian(s)

Why is this information being collected?

This collection is undertaken each year and is used to inform Commonwealth school education policy, and to help ensure Commonwealth funding arrangements for non-government schools are based on need, and are fair and transparent.

FAQs for parents - 2019 Student Residential Address and other Information Collection

On 20 September 2018 the Government announced that it will implement a new, improved capacity to contribute methodology used in the calculation of the Commonwealth's needsbased funding arrangements for non-government schools. This follows a review of the existing socio-economic status (SES) score methodology by the National School Resourcing Board. Further information about the review and the Government's response can be found here: https://www.education.gov.au/review-socio-economic-status-ses-score-methodology.

The information that is collected will be used to refine the new capacity to contribute methodology and may also be used in school funding calculations from 2020.

When is the 2019 address collection?

The collection will open on 19 February 2019 and close on 18 March 2019.

Is my personal information secure?

Yes. Your personal information is protected by law, including the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Additionally, any use and disclosure of your personal information relating to the address collection will occur in accordance with the Australian Education Regulation 2013.

Your personal information gathered under the collection may be used by the department, or disclosed to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (the ABS), for the purposes of SES score policy development, reviewing SES score methodology, calculating SES scores, Commonwealth school education policy development (including school funding), or where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

To support the collection, the department commissioned an independent privacy impact assessment (PIA). Among other things, the PIA assesses the flows of information under the collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in-place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The report is available at https://docs.education.gov.au/node/51436.

The collection notice you were provided by your school also contains additional information about how the department may use and disclose your personal information.

Who should I contact if I have concerns about privacy?

If you have any concerns about privacy relating to this collection you can contact the department by:

Email: seshelpdesk@education.gov.au
 Phone: 1800.677.027 (select Option 4)





Upcoming Webinar Switching on your child's strengths

About

The extraordinary results of focusing on our children's strengths rather than always trying to correct their weaknesses is explained in this webinar.

As a strength-based scientist for more than 20 years, Professor Waters has seen how this approach enhances self-esteem and energy in children and teenagers, and how parents find it exciting and rewarding. With many specific techniques for parents, she will demonstrate how to discover your children's strengths and talents, use positive emotions as a resource, build strong brains, deal with problem behaviour and talk about difficult situations and emotions.

When

Wednesday 6 March 2019 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM AEDT

How parents can redeem the voucher

- 1. Click this link: www.parentingideas.com.au/parent-resources/parent-webinars/webinar-switching-on-your-childs-strengths
- 2. Click 'Add to cart'
- 3. Click 'View cart'
- 4. Enter the voucher code **STRENGTHS** and click 'Apply'. Your discount of \$37 will be applied to the order. This voucher is valid until 6 April 2019.
- 5. Click 'Proceed to checkout'
- 6. Fill in your account details. These are the details you will use to login to your account and access your parenting material
- 7. Click 'Place Order'

