

WELCOME BACK!



First Edition - February 2nd 2024

Welcome Back

We are back and ready for a wonderful year of learning! The students have settled in beautifully and the classrooms have been buzzing with activity. I've been visiting classes over the last three days and the vibe around the school has been delightful. There is almost nothing better than a school full of smiling kids!

We welcome our new students across the school but in particular, we extend a very warm welcome to our brand new Foundation students- Axel, Fletcher, and Alaska. These three have settled in well already.

Our new School Captains Scarlett and Bray are ready for a busy year and are very eager to get into their official roles.

It's also really exciting to have Ms Moloney join us as the Assistant Principal this year! She's done an outstanding job so far learning the ropes and getting involved.



Derrinallum College acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadawurrung people. We thank the Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all First Nations people who are connected to our school.

Remembering Mia

Our entire college community was saddened by the passing of much loved, Mia over the school holidays. We have all felt the impact of losing Mia and will remember her as the kind, special, and talented young woman that she was.

Mia made an impression on all those around her and there is no better time than now to remember good times we had with her and support each other with our sadness.

The college community extends their thoughts and well wishes to Mia's family who are still recovering.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL



New Staff:

We welcome to the team Suzy Dodds, Carmen Lane, and Kym Penry who are all new to the college. Suzy and Carmen will be teaching across Maths and Science in the secondary school. Kym will be tutoring secondary English and Literacy. We also welcome a familiar face to a very different role from what she is used to. Charlene Knight is joining us as our Auslan teacher on permission to teach. Charlene's first language was Auslan and she comes with not only a wealth of knowledge but a boat load of enthusiasm.

Returning Staff:

Derrinallum must be a great place to work as we also welcome back lots of staff for 2024.

- Lionel and Kylie who will be working with us all year in education support.
- Mr Green will not only be taking metal and wood again but back in the general classroom as well.
- Ms Hunger has returned part-time after welcoming her twins. This term she is in the 3/4 classroom team teaching with Miss Summerfield.
- Miss Blake is back but not teaching Art or Library but rather as our Grade 2 classroom teacher.
- Mrs. Johnstone is trying something a little different as the 5/6 classroom teacher after many years in the prep/1 space.
- Ms Place and Ms Lee have also returned to us with permission to teach.
- Although we also welcomed back Miss Green from family leave it's very exciting that the next time she comes to school she will actually be Mrs Westmoreland. Miss Green is getting married this weekend and we wish her nothing but the best!



Testing

We give out a special thanks to all those families who supported our return to school by bringing in their students for their testing sessions. These one-to-one sessions allow both the students and teachers to get the best start to the school year. These sessions also help reduce anxiety about returning to school by allowing students to work with their teacher and explore their classrooms before classes start.

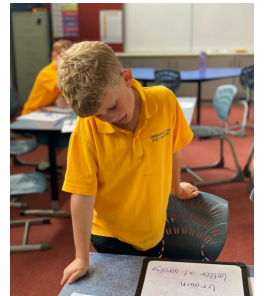
STUDENT FREE DAY

Please note that we have a student-free day coming up very quickly. Whilst it is not ideal to have one so early the day is for staff training and unfortunately this is the time that we can get with the facilitator, Dan Petro. The training will boost the work with will be doing in the school-wide positive space

2024 is going to be a truly amazing year for us at Derrinallum College! Be sure to stay up to date and be involved!

Caitlyn Fitzgerald - Principal

IN THE CLASSROOM...



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Challenge Camp

Our first group to return to school was the VPC/VM/VCE students who started their year by attending our annual challenge camp. The challenge camp is designed to help our students push their limits and try different tasks, and have a go at something they aren't sure they can do.

This year the students had a go at the Live Wire high ropes course and a trail ride with Spring Creek Horse Rides. They also enjoyed a stroll along the beach and camp games and activities. The students cooked their dinner and breakfast

The students returned to Derrinallum to enjoy lunch prepared by Sandra at Deep Lake. This also gave Ms Dodds, the 11/12 Advocate, the chance to meet the kids and introduce herself.



Big thanks to Mrs Niblett and Mr Green who also took on the challenges of the camp. We know that the kids appreciate the opportunities they get at school and camps are only possible by the staff giving up their time to go.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



CALENDAR

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Monday 29th January Staff return to school Student free day	Monday 5th February	Monday 12th February	Monday 19th February
Tuesday 30th January Primary Testing Day VCE Camp	Tuesday 6th February	Tuesday 13th February Swimming Sports	Tuesday 20th February
Wednesday 31st January Primary Testing Day 7-10 Students return VCE Camp	Wednesday 7th February	Wednesday 14th February	Wednesday 21th February School Council
Thursday 1st February F-6 and VCE classes start Whole school assembly	Thursday 8th February Principal Network Meeting	Thursday 15th February	Thursday 22nd February
Friday 2nd February VM Classes start	Friday 9th February	Friday 16th February Student Free Day	Friday 23rd February MWD Swimming